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AKAGI Nobuyuki Fukumoto

Kindai Mahjong Comics

第17巻

アカギ

激浪の闘牌 17

闇に降り立った天才

激浪の闘牌

福本伸行

TAKE SHOBO

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近代麻雀コミックス 竹書房

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激浪の闘牌
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福本伸行
TAKE SHOBO
侮るな。魔物は魔物だ。
小賢しい業突く張りがいかに成り上がろうとも魔物にはなれない。
人智を越えた悪魔のような冷酷と知略の持ち主なのだ。
とまれ"悪魔のような"…所詮"ような"なのだ。
悪魔のエピゴーネンにすぎない。
彼は違う。悪魔そのものだ。
地獄の業火を背に一そびえ立つ悪魔だ。
――裏に神域の男と呼ばれ、裏社会に君臨した赤木しげるだ。
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竹書房

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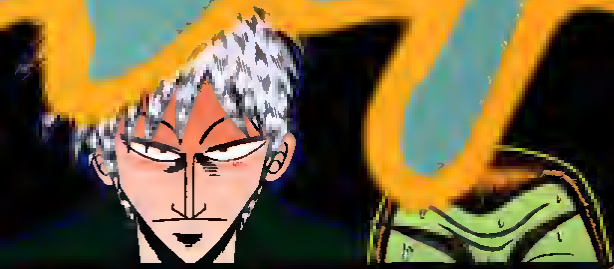

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●TAKE SHOBO●

赤木しげる

あらすじ

昭和33年、チキンランを生き残った少年・赤木しげるは、初めて打つ麻雀でも異才を発揮し、ヤクザ相手の勝負に次々と勝利を収めてゆく。

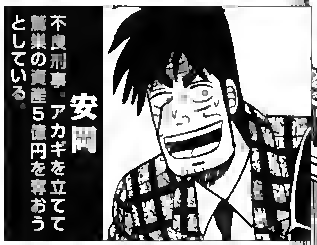
昭和40年。退屈に苦しんだ資産家・鷲巣は、血液を賭ける狂気の麻雀を行っていた。アカギ・仲木・安岡の3人は、殺人犬・鷲巣を狩るため、生き血を賭けた勝負・鷲巣麻雀に挑む。5回戦を終え、アカギは約5億円を奪う。

鷲巣の残り資産は2750万円。新たに順位負けの血液精算とチョンボの支払いをアカギと鷲巣のサシで支払う取り決めを追加して、6回戦が開局……！

登場人物

鷲巣

権力を利用して巨万の富を築いた老人。麻雀で若者の命をもてあそぶ。

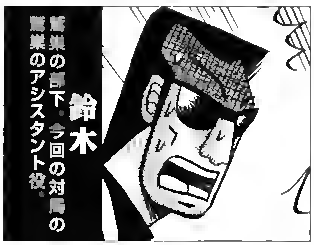


安岡

不良刑事。アカギを立てて鷲巣の資産5億円を奪おうとしている。

仲木

福田組の若頭。安岡の誘いに乗りアカギを使って鷲巣に挑戦する。



鈴木

鷲巣の部下。今回の対馬の鷲巣のアシスタント役。

【鷲巣麻雀概要】

アカギが半荘6回戦を戦い抜けばアカギ側の勝利。途中でアカギが絶命すれば、それまでに得た現金も全て没収。鷲巣側の勝利となる

●レート：1000点＝100万円＝血液100cc。アカギと鷲巣のサシ勝負。ウマ（1万・3万）・オカを加算したポイント差で半荘ごとに精算。アカギの致死量2000ccは点棒2万点に相当し、鷲巣の現有資産5億円は50万点に相当する。

●ガラス牌：1種4牌のうち3枚が透明ガラス牌。

●ボーナス払い：半荘精算時以外にも、アカギと鷲巣の間で直接点棒の移動があった場合には、その局ごとに血液or現金をやりとりする。

●鷲巣側の特例：半荘2回を区切りとして勝負を続行するか、途中終了するかを、鷲巣側のみ選択できる。

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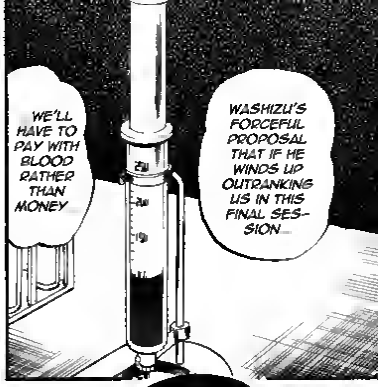
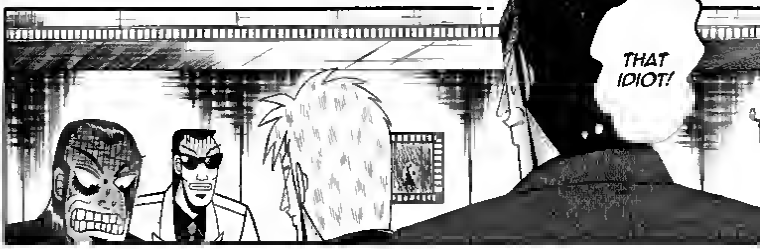
◎『近代麻雀』平成16年8月1日号・9月1日号・10月1日号
11月1日号・12月1日号・17年1月1日号
2月1日号・3月1日号・4月1日号所載

CHAPTER 143:
FIRST DEALER
GG HH ...!
Washizu Mahjong.

The first round of the final, Sixth Session, begins!
Washizu: 25,000 Points
Remaining Funds: 27.5 Million Yen
Akagi: 25,000 Points, -2000 ccs
Total Sum of Acquired Money: 672.5 Million Yen
IT'S FAN-TASTIC!
THE DEALER POSITION STUCK TO HIM LIKE A MAGNET!
EVEN THOUGH IT SEEMED LIKE HE WAS LOSING THE FLOW AT THE END OF THE 5TH SES-SION...
THIS IS GOOD!
ALL RIGHT!
The First Dealer is Akagi...!
HE CAN SLICE THROUGH THE OPPOSI-TION!
RIGHT OUT OF THE GATES...
HE CAN BLAZE RIGHT THROUGH IT!
ALL RIGHT. GOOD!


WE'LL HAVE TO PAY WITH BLOOD RATHER THAN MONEY...
WASHIZU'S FORCEFUL PROPOSAL THAT IF HE WINDS UP OUTRANKING US IN THIS FINAL SESSION...



...TAKE A LOOK AT THE BATTLE TO NOW, AND WASHIZU HASN'T EVEN COME CLOSE TO OUT-RANKING HIM!

AS A MATTER OF FACT...

	AKAGI	WASHIZU
1	1ST (+59)	2ND (+18)
2	1ST (+63)	2ND (+13)
3	1ST (+79)	3RD (-28)
4	1ST (+71)	2ND (+8)
5	1ST (+121)	4TH (-85)
6		

HE INSISTED ON THAT GREEDY PROPOSAL THAT DID NOTHING BUT INCREASE HIS ODDS FOR SUCCESS!
HE RAISED HIS ODDS!
PERSIS-TENTLY!
EVEN WITH THAT SAID...
AND YET...
BUT IT'S USE-LESS!
HE'S A ASTON-ISHING OLD MAN...
TO EXTRACT WHAT'S LEFT OF AKAGI'S BLOOD!
...IS MAKING TSUMO WINS...
IT'S CLEAR THAT HIS ONLY WAY OUT, NOW...
NO MATTER HOW THINGS GO...

NOW THAT IT'S GOTTEN TO THIS STAGE
THAT INCON-VENIENT TRUTH..

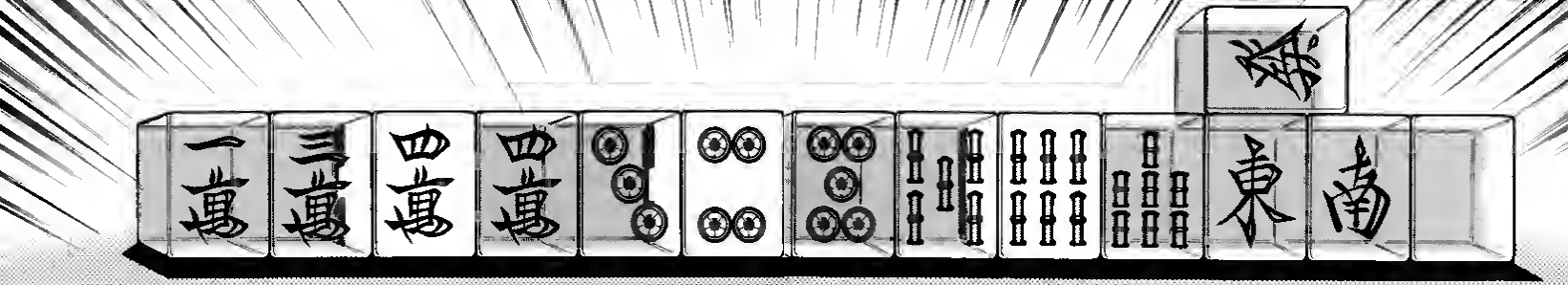
IS THE ONLY LOGICAL CONCLU-SION!
THAT FACT

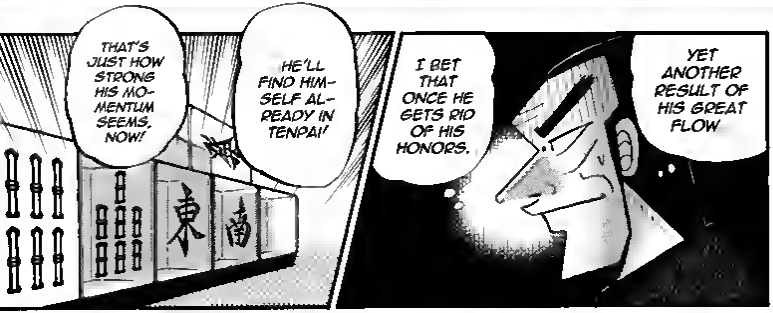
.....
...IS SOMETHING THAT EVEN WASHIZU HAS TO ADMIT!
ｶﾅﾘ...

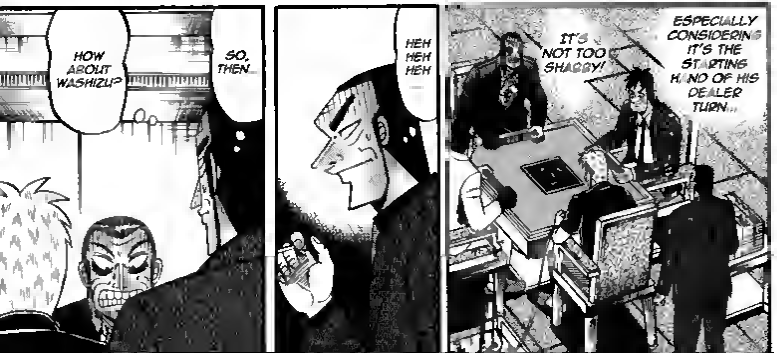
南
南
西

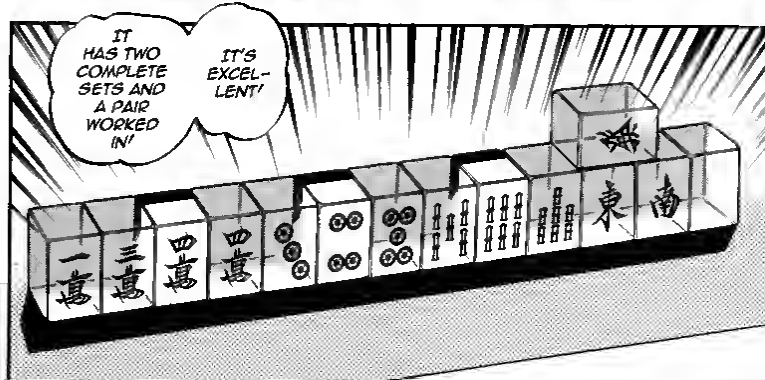
BUT ANY-WAY...
HEH HEH HEH...!
AS HE IS NOW...
HE WON'T GET EVEN ONE MORE DROP OF HIS BLOOD!
WE WON'T LET HIM HAVE HIS WAY...
AKAGI SHIGERU WON'T LET HIM BUDGE AN INCH!!
ゴッ。
The 6th Session...

East 1st Round. Akagi's Starting Hand...!

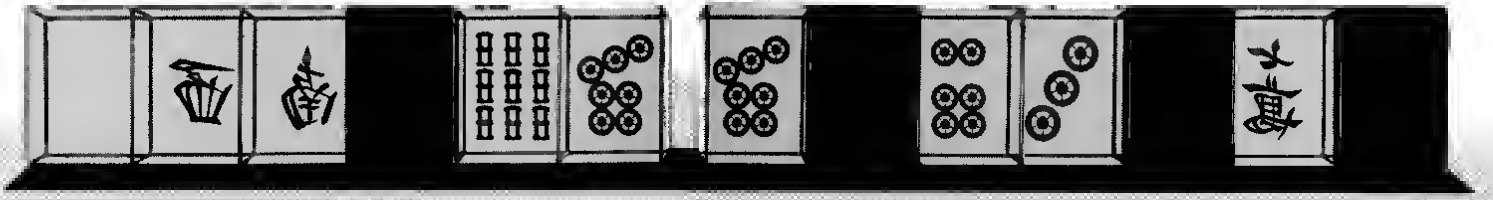


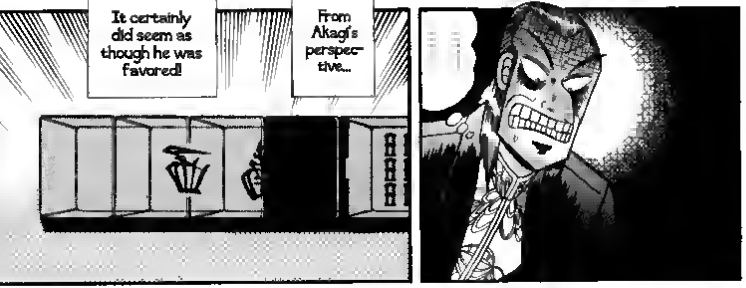

THAT'S JUST HOW STRONG HIS MOMENTUM SEEMS, NOW!
HE'LL FIND HIMSELF ALREADY IN TENPAI!
I BET THAT ONCE HE GETS RID OF HIS HONORS.
YET ANOTHER RESULT OF HIS GREAT FLOW
東
南

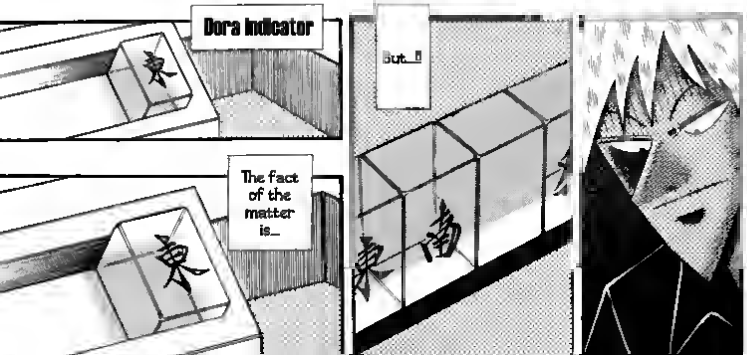


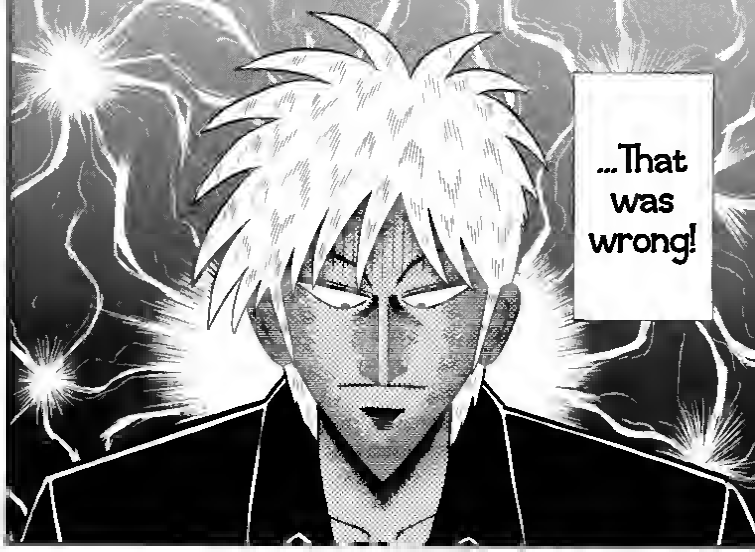


Washizu's Starting Hand...!








...That was wrong!

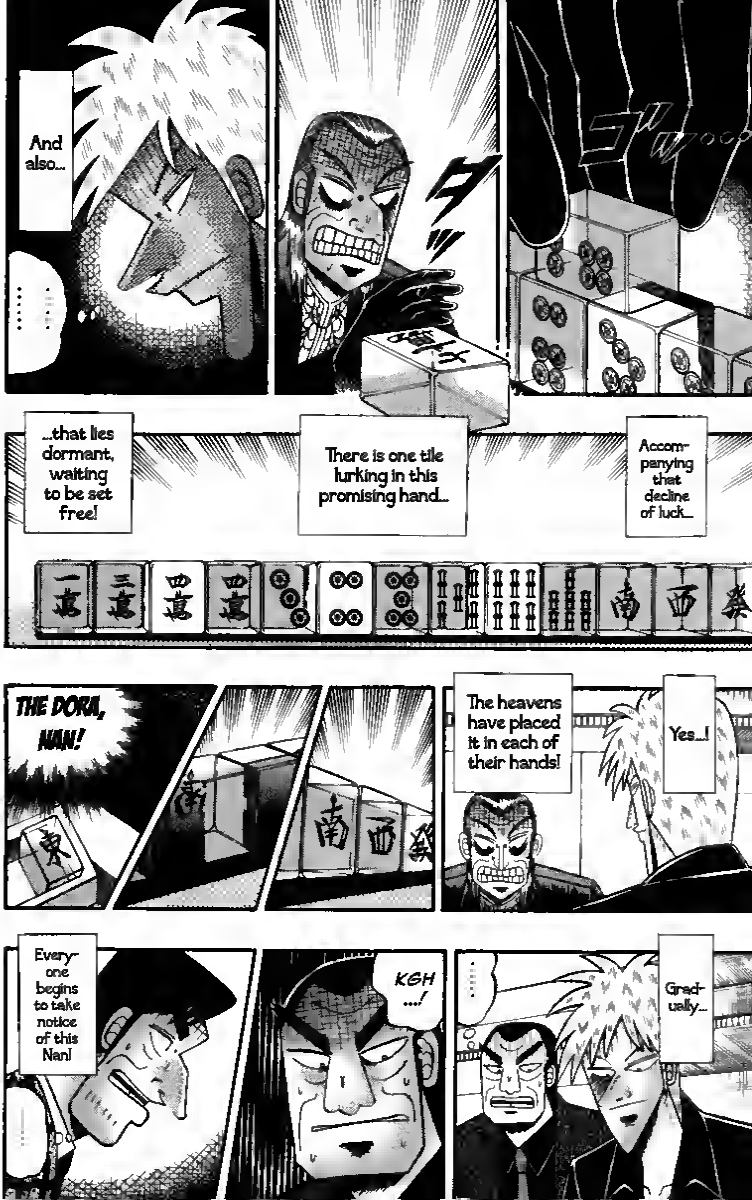
Something was fundamentally different!

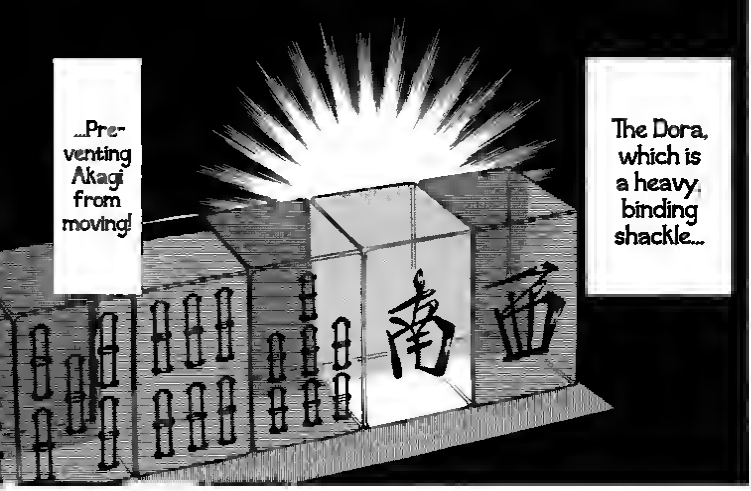
To begin with...
There was a precondition...
That had still yet to be recognized! This was already a major difference!

That was what he had thought...
...and allowed Akagi to be the first dealer
Had assumed that the momentum from the 5th Session had carried over...
For, Ohgi...
For, Akagi had stumbled in!
But it was just the opposite!
Until now, he had been losing his grasp on the divine luck he was known for...
Washizu had been revived!
...he found himself deep within the Tiger's Den!
With that forceful dealing in during the 5th Session...
Akagi felt that Washizu's fortune could only increase!
But with that dealing, it had been reversed!

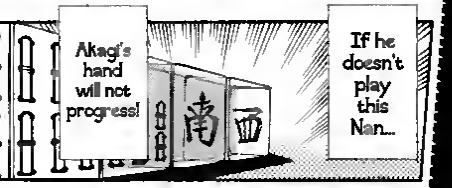
Would devolve into a chase to catch Washizu!
This 6th and Final Session...
That was his belief!
And thus...
He would want to be the Last Dealer!
...For him to have the best chance to come back in this session...
For this reason...
He was the East Seat, the first dealer!
...Had already been decided otherwise!
However, the seat he got...
The North Seat would be the optimal position!

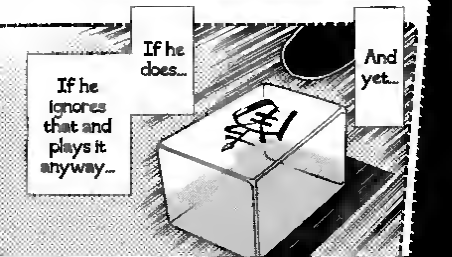
When one considers that Akagi had been the Last Dealer for all the 5 previous sessions...
However...
The worst position for making a comeback!
Then, especially for how Akagi is now...
ゴゴ...
ゴゴ...
This much is only natural!
It is an obviously likely turnout!
.....
This is simply a given...
And be the First Dealer in this 6th Session!
For him to give up the best position ...
Considering that Akagi's luck is on the decline!


And also...
.....
ゲッ
ゴゴゴゴ
...that lies dormant, waiting to be set free!
There is one tile lurking in this promising hand...
Accompanying that decline of luck...
一萬 三萬 四萬 四萬
南 西
THE DORA, NAN!
東
南 西
The heavens have placed it in each of their hands!
Yes...!
Everyone begins to take notice of this Nan!
KGH ....!
.....
Gradually...


...Preventing Akagi from moving!
The Dora, which is a heavy, binding shackle...

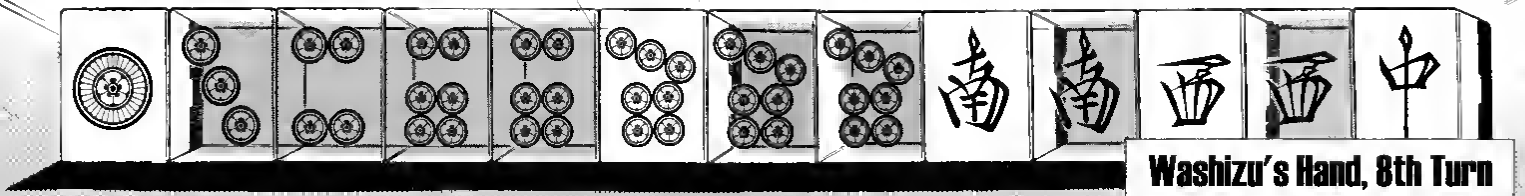
He cannot move!


Akagi's hand will not progress!
If he doesn't play this Nan...

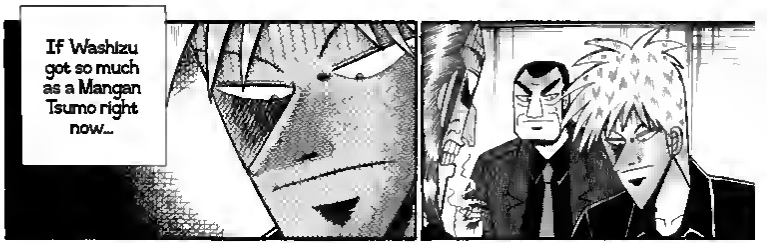

If he does...
If he ignores that and plays it anyway...
And yet...

The weight of this Dora is now clear to everyone!

...He would do nothing but provide a boost to Washizu's already massive momentum!



Washizu's Hand, 8th Turn



And in fact, was beginning to shift back!
The other way!
Truly the worst flow!
If the direction of the game continue in this fashion...
Then perhaps ...
It would not be impossible...

Washizu's Mangan Tsumo...!
For it to arrive at any moment!
TCH!
But even with that trend...
Having seen the way it was going, on the 11th Turn...
チラ

ドラッ…
RO... RON!
JUST PINFU!
GGH ...!
Akagi ... Stops it by dealing into Yasuoka!
He staves off this predicament!
KGH ...
He blocks it!
DAM-MIT...
The hand that was one away from Tenpai...
Washizu's Hon Itsu...
The hand that could have killed Akagi ...
That Mangan was blocked!

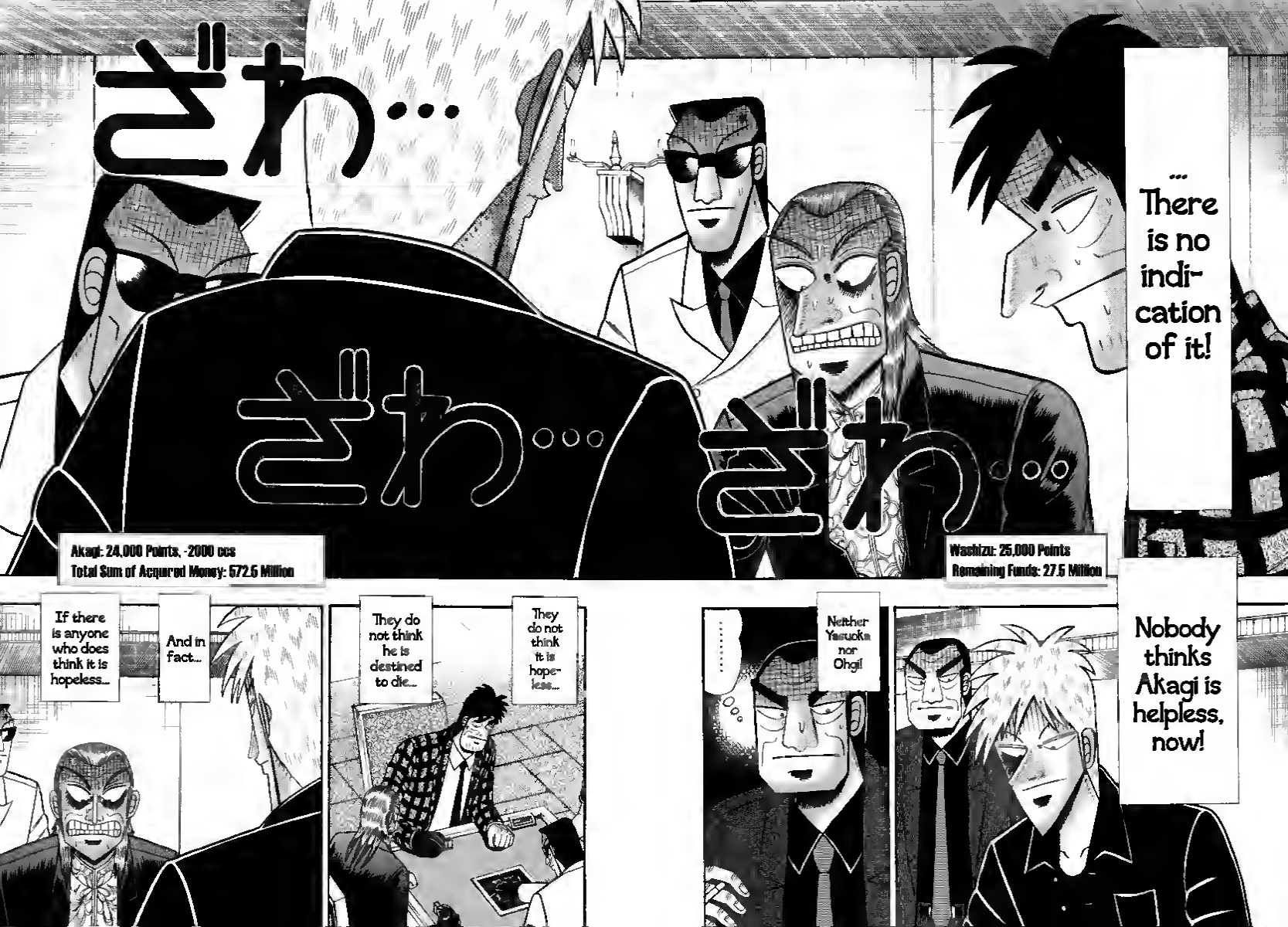
ざわ
ざわ
ざわ
HUH-HHH..
WHAT'S GOING ON, HERE...!
TCH...
AL-REA-DY!
HOW COULD IT HAVE COME TO THIS?!
THAT WAS TOO CLOSE, JUST NOW!
A mis-judg-ment --
FUCK!
JUST AS I WAS THINKING WE HAD OUR MO-MENTUM BACK..

It would not be an easy battle in any sense.
This round would not be as Ohgi had so optimistically surmised...
Unfortunately...
ゴト..
It was an obvious misjudgment.
ゴト..
ゴト..
...He could do nothing to stop himself from plummeting into the abyss!
If he were to make one wrong move...
There would be a cripplingly strong headwind!
He will die, in that very instant!
If he can't deal with it in just the right way...
He can't allow himself to lose focus!
That was the strength of this headwind!
No... Even if he does everything correctly...

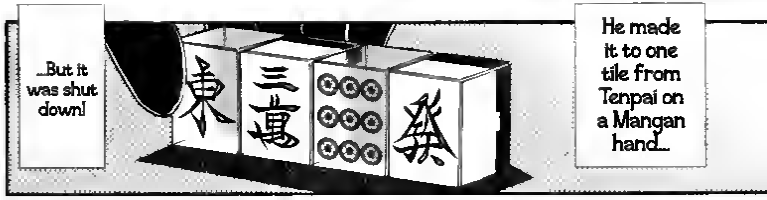
He may have no way around his inevitable death!

That is the level of this head-wind!!

CHAPTER 144: MALICIOUS
第144話邪気


ごわ…
ごわ…
ごわ…
… There is no indi- cation of it!
Akagi: 24,000 Points, -2000 ccs
Total Sum of Acquired Money: 672.6 Million
Washizu: 25,000 Points
Remaining Funds: 27.5 Million
If there is anyone who does think it is hopeless…
And in fact…
They do not think he is destined to die…
They do not think it is hope- less…
……
Oo。
Neither Yasuoka nor Ohgi
Nobody thinks Akagi is helpless, now!

He is beginning to have doubts!
...It could only be Washizu!

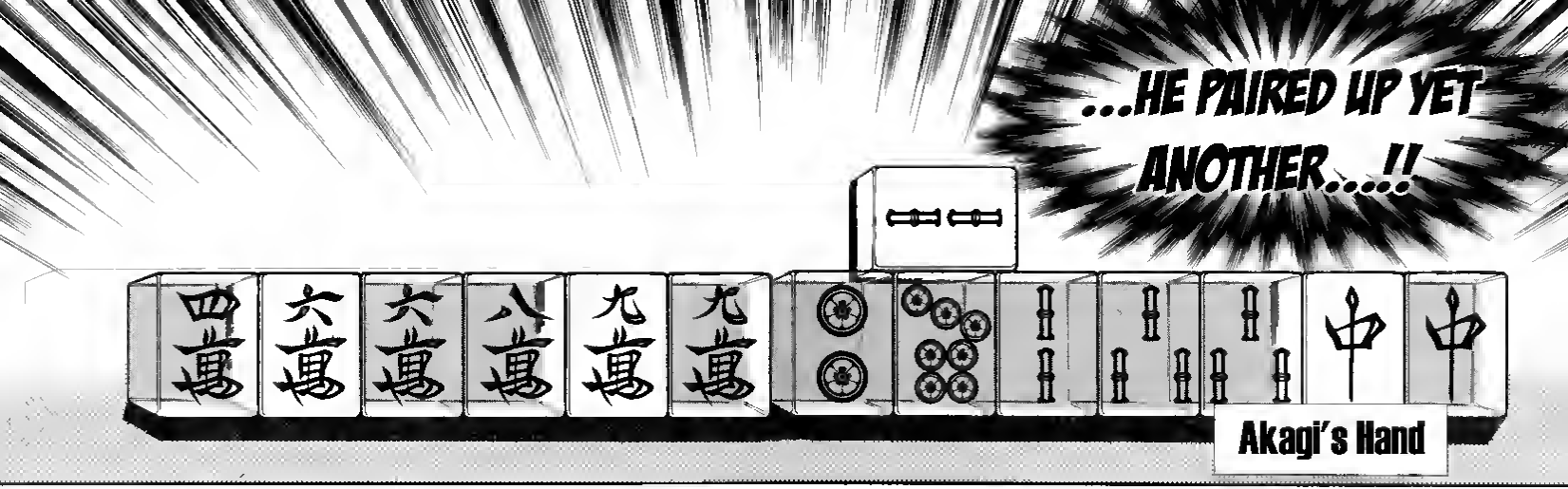

...But it was shut down!
He made it to one tile from Tenpai on a Mangan hand...

But this image he received ...
...He were merely Akagi's plaything!
Was only because ...
Washizu began to feel as though...
He had been stopped again!

He could not see it!
He could not see that Akagi gave up his dealer turn...
That he dealt in and had no choice to run away!
He could not see that simple fact!
Only Akagi could!
The only one in the entire room who could sense...
The dark clouds looming over his fate...
—Was Akagi him-self!

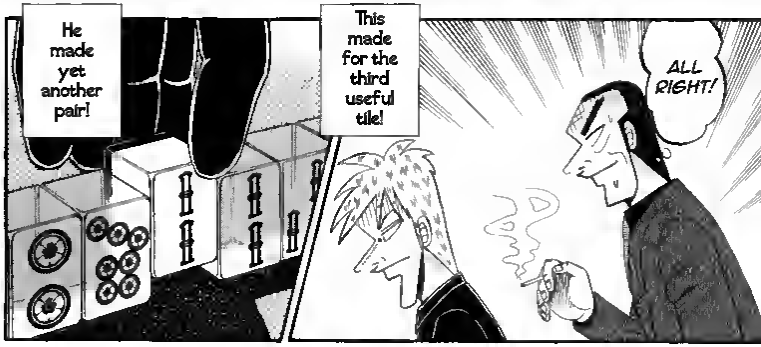
He felt a sort of malicious-ness...
A bad omen that the road ahead would be fraught with peril!
Akagi's Hand

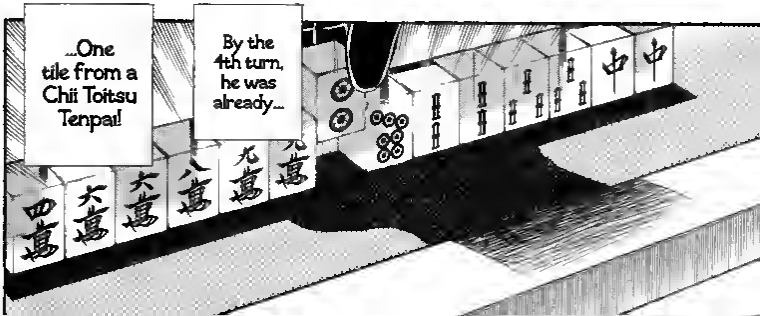
In this East 2nd Round, as well...
Be that as it may...
But regardless...
...Blessed with a good starting hand!
Akagi was, once again...
On the fourth turn...
That, after pairing two additional tiles in his hand...
And that good hand of his allowed for the development...


...HE PAIRED UP YET ANOTHER....!!
四萬 六萬 六萬 八萬 九萬 九萬
中 中
Akagi's Hand

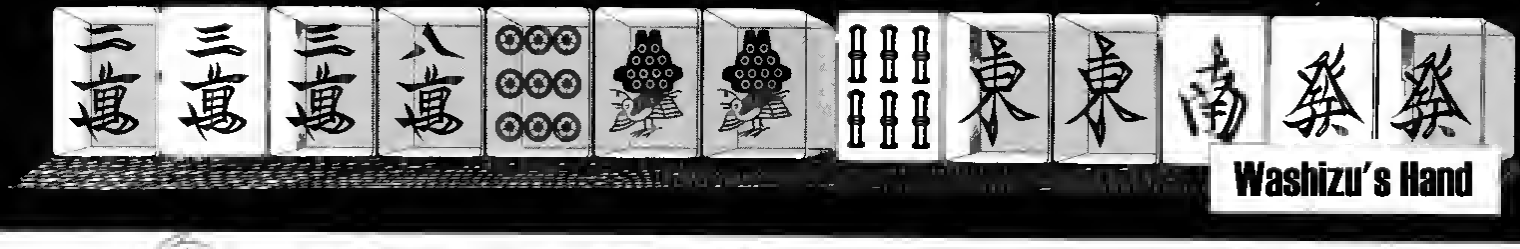
Was not bad at all
Any way you looked at it, this flow...
It was not bad!

Contrary to that, Washizu...
On the other hand ...

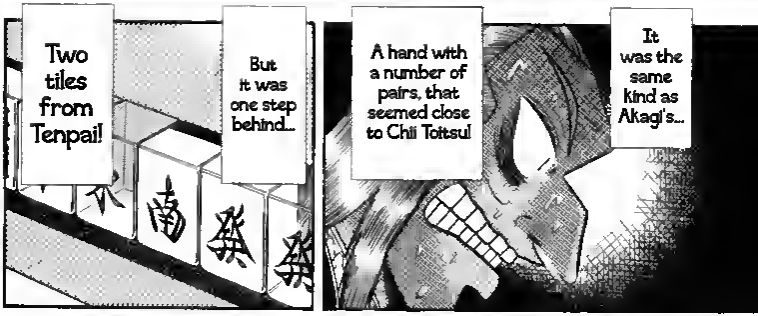

He made yet another pair!
This made for the third useful tile!
ALL RIGHT!

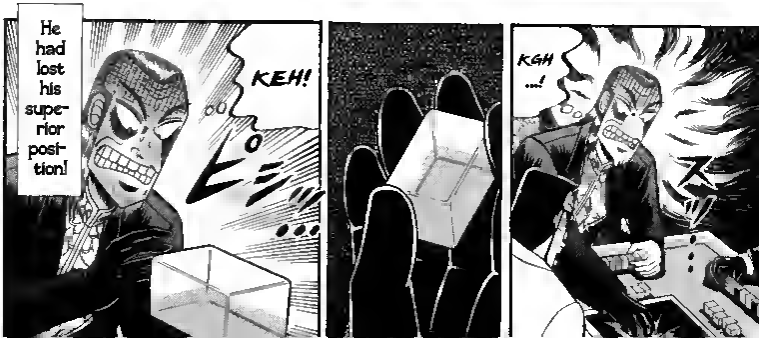

...One tile from a Chii Toitsu Tenpai!
By the 4th turn, he was already...
四萬 六萬 六萬 八萬 九萬 九萬
中 中

WAS STILL TRAILING BEHIND WITH THIS....!!



Washizu's Hand

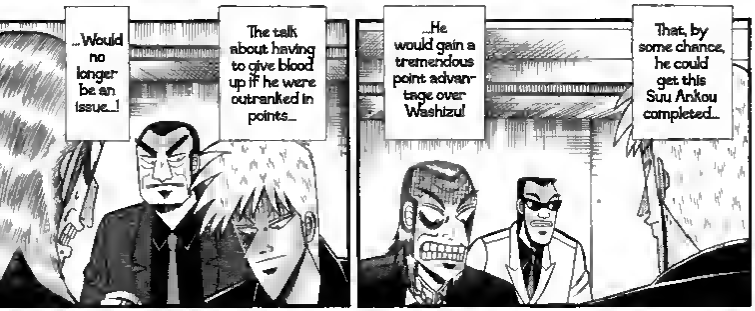

Two tiles from Tenpai!
But it was one step behind...
A hand with a number of pairs, that seemed close to Chii Toitsu!
It was the same kind as Akagi's...



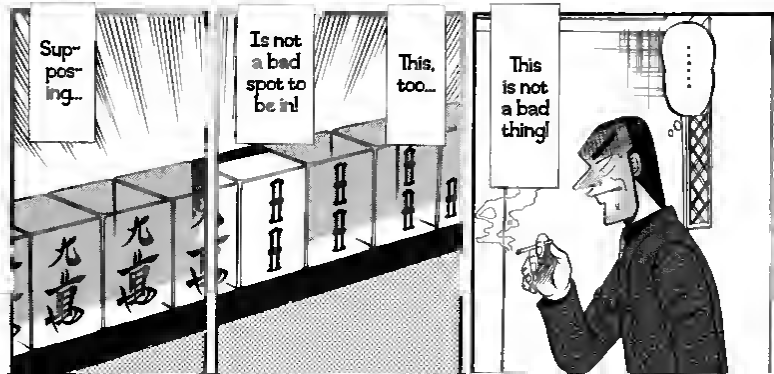
DOWN THE ROAD LESS TRAVELED!
It builds up!
Against all odds...!
GGH....!

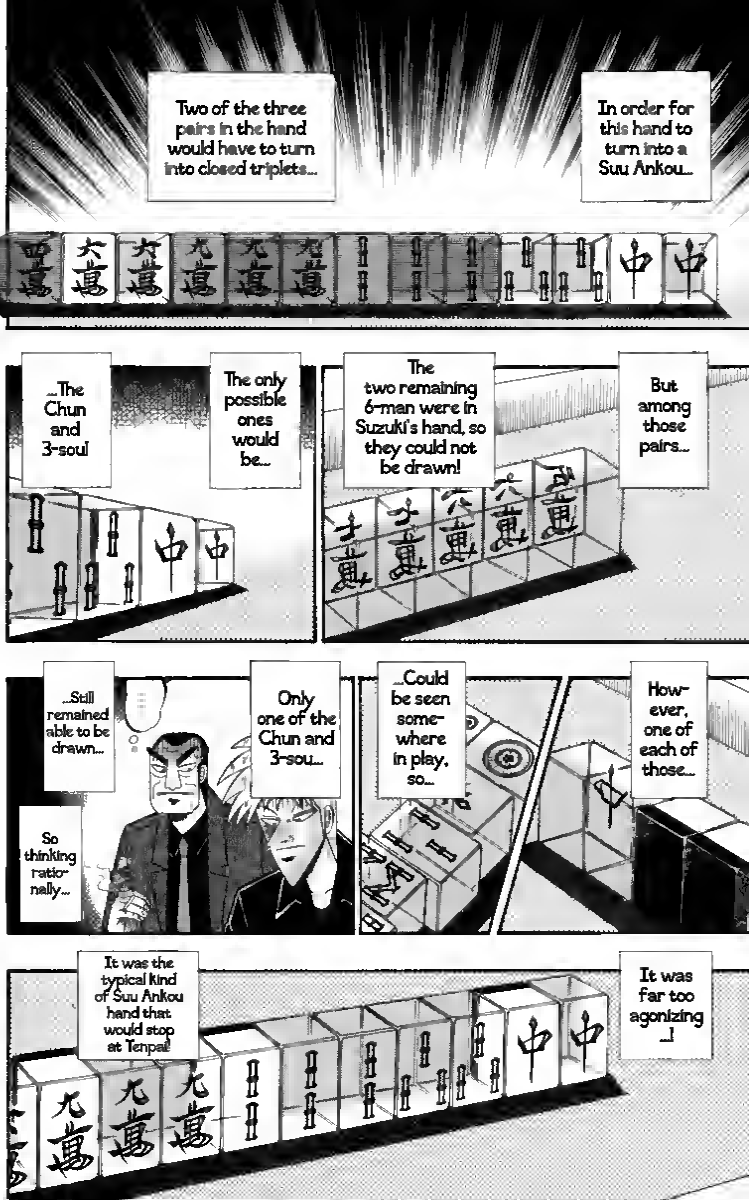
The value of Akagi's hand...
Swells up, dramatically ...!
KGH ...!
Before he knew it...
Granted him two additional Closed Triplets!
Akagi's draws on the 5th and 7th turns...
Yes...
WHAT'S GOING ON, HERE?!
ANOTHER ONE...!

...HE WAS ONE TILE FROM A SUU ANKOU TENPAI.....!!

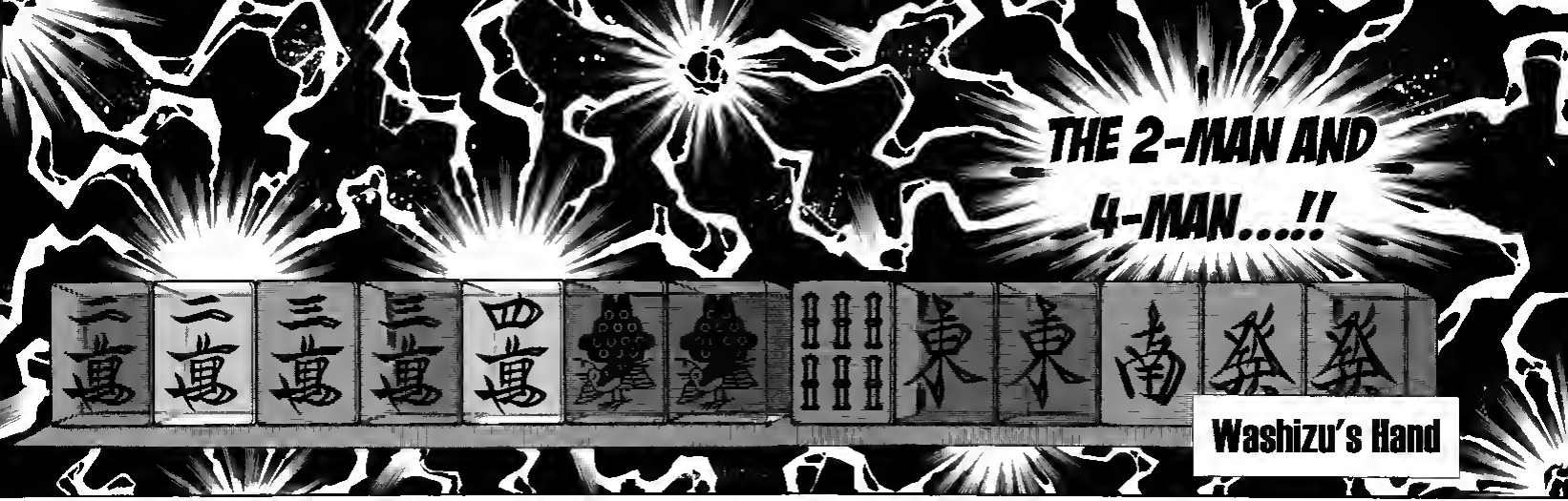

...Would no longer be an issue...!
The talk about having to give blood up if he were outranked in points...
...He would gain a tremendous point advantage over Washizu!
That, by some chance, he could get this Suu Ankou completed...

An agonizing road to follow!
That would be nearly impossible...
Thinking about it realistically...
And yet...
It would fly right out the window!

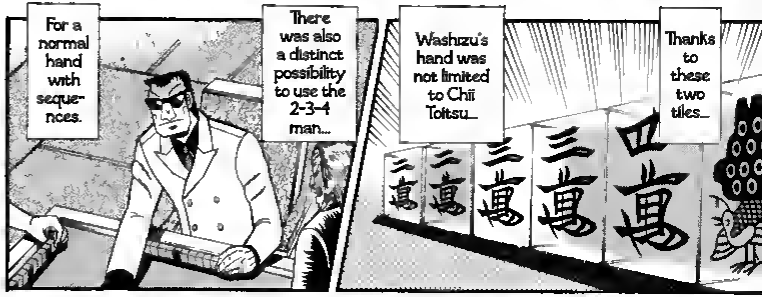

Supposing...
Is not a bad spot to be in!
This, too...
This is not a bad thing!


Two of the three pairs in the hand would have to turn into closed triplets...
In order for this hand to turn into a Suu Ankou...
...The Chun and 3-sou!
The only possible ones would be...
The two remaining 6-man were in Suzuki's hand, so they could not be drawn!
But among those pairs...
...Still remained able to be drawn...
Only one of the Chun and 3-sou...
So thinking rationally...
...Could be seen somewhere in play, so...
However, one of each of those...
It was the typical kind of Suu Ankou hand that would stop at Tenpai!
It was far too agonizing...!

It was too heavy handed!
Right now, he had no need for such a large hand!
Before that, he was hoping for a quick, easy hand!
And on the contrary...
Washizu, though his situation was similar...
...in that he had also gotten 2 useful tiles in the past 3 turns...
The two tiles that Washizu had drawn...
The quality of those two draws was different!
...Opened up his hand even wider!
The possible yaku he could make and waits he could form had increased!
These were extremely versatile!

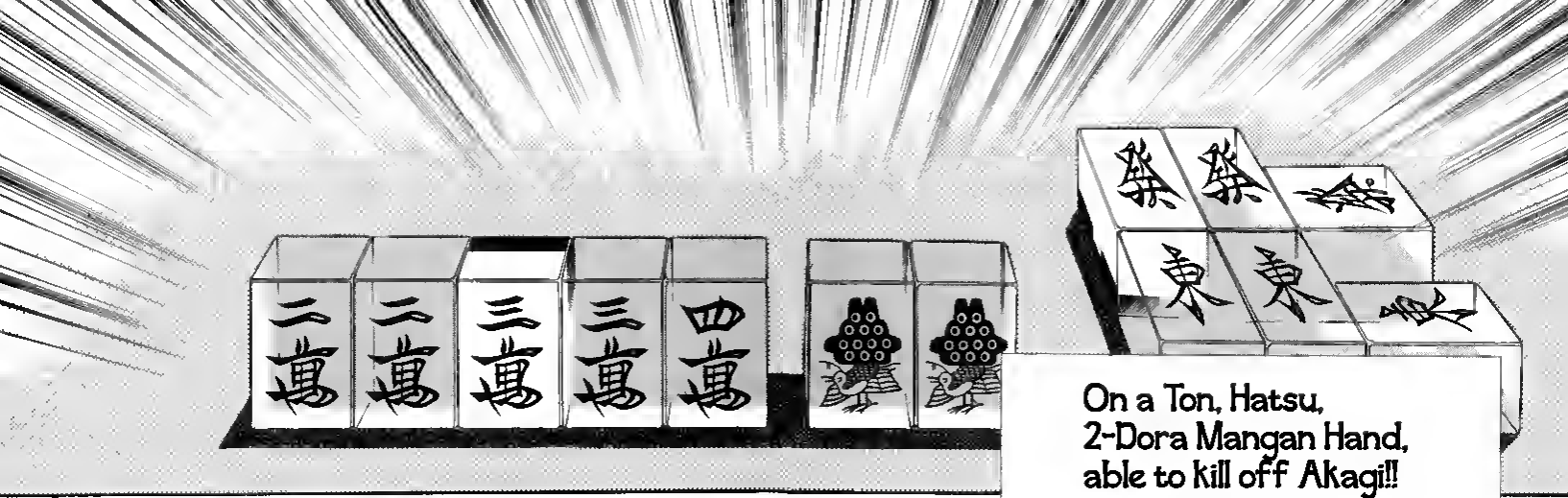

THE 2-MAN AND 4-MAN...!!
二萬 二萬 三萬 三萬 四萬 東 東 南 發 發
Washizu's Hand

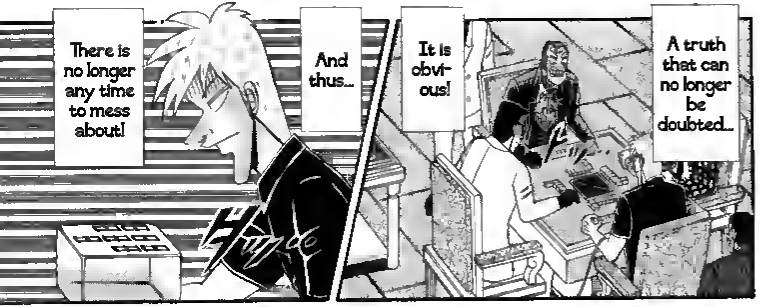
He makes yet another call on the 9th turn...
And in the blink of an eye...
PON!
And then...

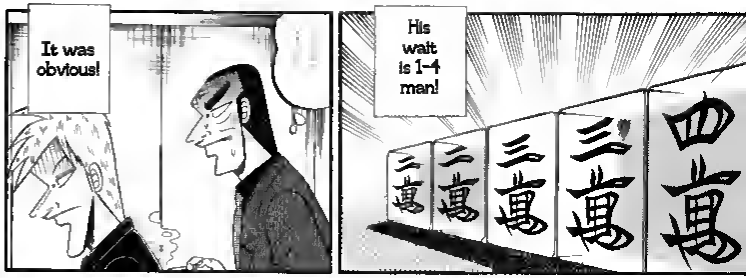

For a normal hand with sequences.
There was also a distinct possibility to use the 2-3-4 man...
Washizu's hand was not limited to Chii Toitsu...
Thanks to these two tiles...
二萬 二萬 三萬 三萬 四萬

He reaches Tenpai!
GGH...!

PON!
He makes a call to advance his hand!
Washizu does exactly that!
And, on the 8th Turn...
He could certainly switch over to that other hand type!


二萬
二萬
三萬
三萬
四萬
發
發
東
東
On a Ton, Hatsu, 2-Dora Mangan Hand, able to kill off Akagi!!


There is no longer any time to mess about!
And thus...
It is obvious!
A truth that can no longer be doubted...


It was obvious!
His wait is 1-4 man!
二萬
二萬
三萬
三萬
四萬

And so he retreats!
He cannot continue to do whatever he pleases...
He is out of time!

The game would be over if either made a Tsumo win!
This is...
And Washizu's Mangan Tenpai...
Between Akagi's heavy-handed Suu Ankou 1-Shan-Ten...
中
中

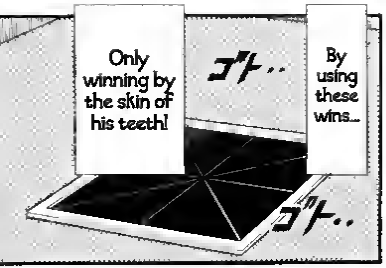
PON!
Gets rid of his Suu Ankou...
Akagi ...
And falls back!

He takes a 1300-point hand and runs away!
Chun only!
RON!
GG HHH ....!

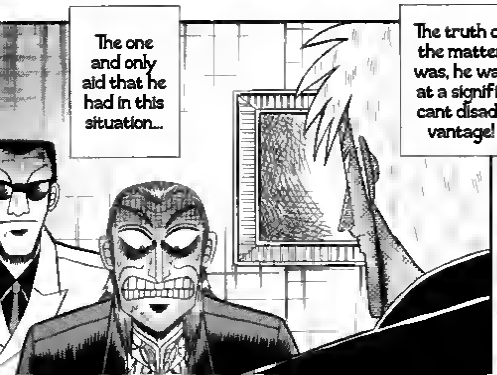
By the skin of his teeth!
Just as in the East 1st Round, he scrapes together a win to shut him out!
GRR GGHH ....!
He avoids it!

Was not able to come to fruition!
Was-hizu's hand...
DAM-MIT...!
Once again!
The one who had the winds of chance blowing their way...
The one who had control of the game...
Be that as it may --
How-ever...
...Was un-doubtedly this man, Washizu Iwao...!

This was clear!
The flow favored Washizu!


Only winning by the skin of his teeth!
ゴト..
By using these wins...
ゴト..

Could not hope to overcome that...
And Akagi ...

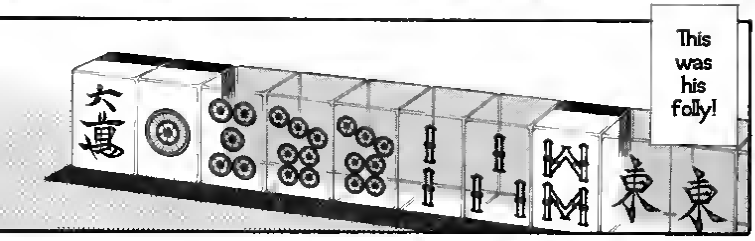

The one and only aid that he had in this situation...
The truth of the matter was, he was at a significant disadvantage!
He was disadvantaged!

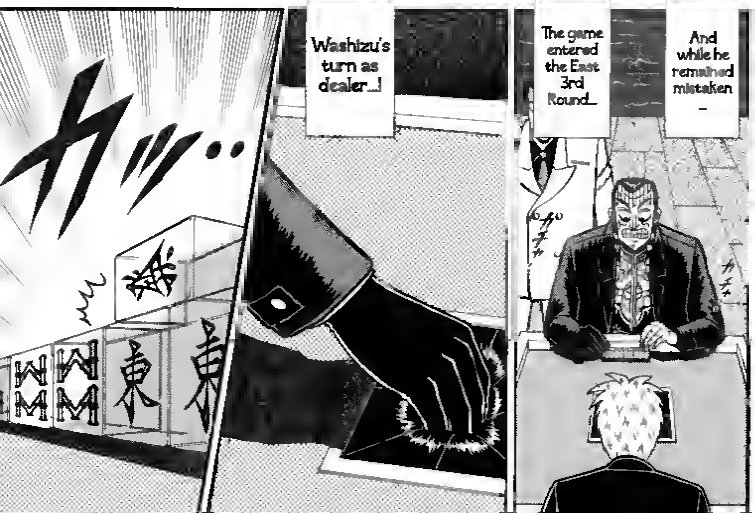
The monster was still lost in the din of his good fortune...
Was that, for now... Washizu had not realized this truth!
He was unaware of just how favorable a position he was in, for the time being!
This was Akagi's only advantage!

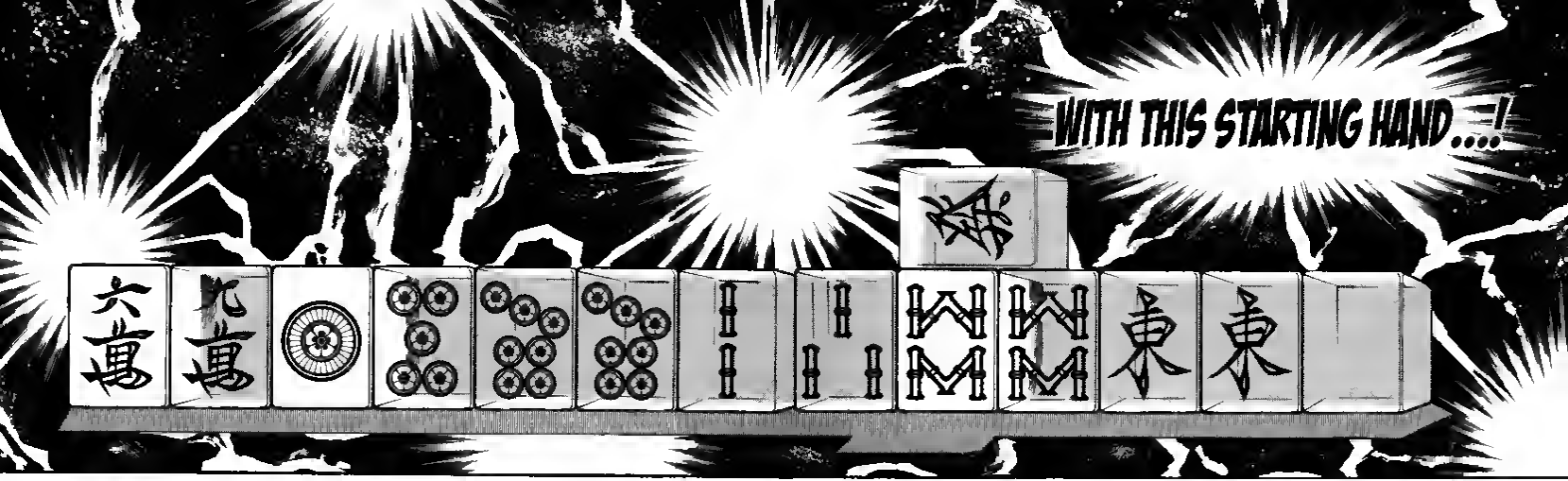
CHAPTER 145 MISTAKE
第145話錯誤
大萬
He had yet to realize!
Was-hizu...
Had tremen-dously good for-tune...!

Truly the luck of an Emperor!
This much –
Had already been expressed!
And yet, Washizu had yet to piece together the meaning of what was happening before him!

And, in fact, his own!
About Akagi's circum-stance...
He was mistaken!


This was his folly!


Washizu's turn as dealer...!
The game entered the East 3rd Round...
And while he remained mistaken...


WITH THIS STARTING HAND...!

However...

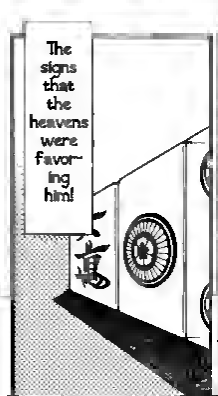
...Was Akagi, alone!
The only one who could see them...

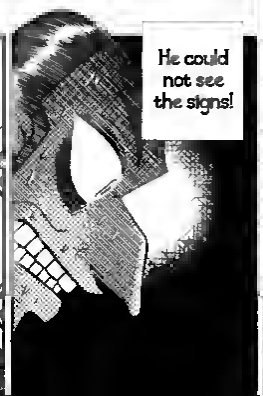
He could no longer deny the fact...

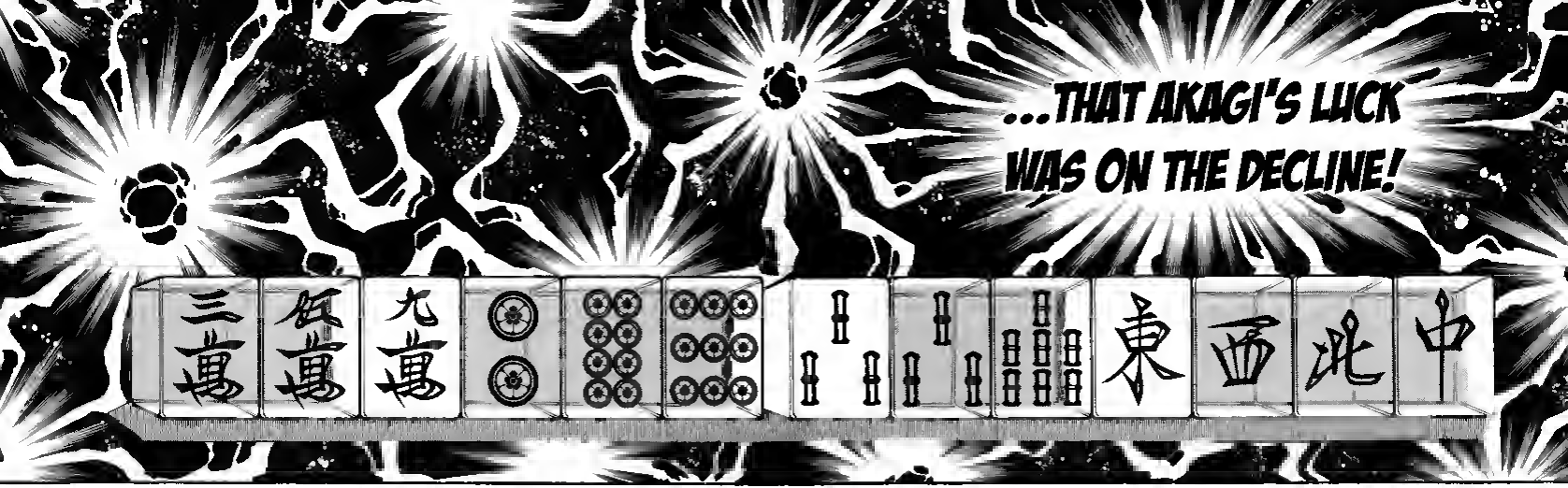
Ohgi had realized!
As one would expect from being able to look on from behind...
By this, the East 3rd Round...

For he could not see it!

And yet, he continued to frown!


The signs that the heavens were favoring him!


He could not see the signs!


...THAT AKAGI'S LUCK WAS ON THE DECLINE!

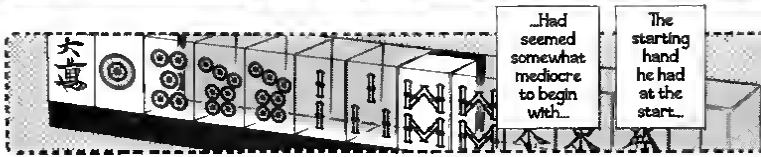
And even with that in mind...

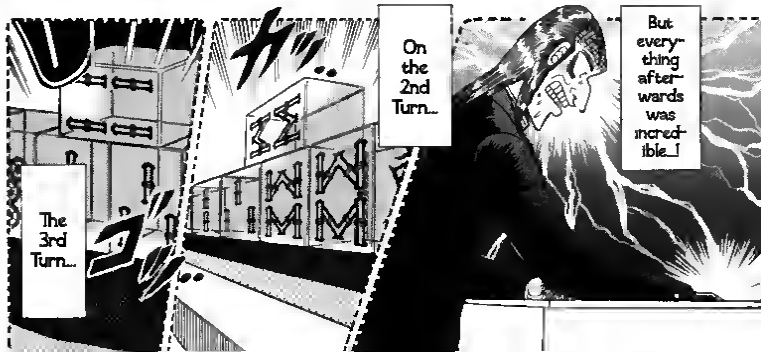
His hand was in shambles... An absolutely unusable flow...!
He continued to draw useless Honor Tiles again and again...
His draws were indecisive!

Based on the appearance of the good parts of the hand...
But still...
A brutal starting hand!

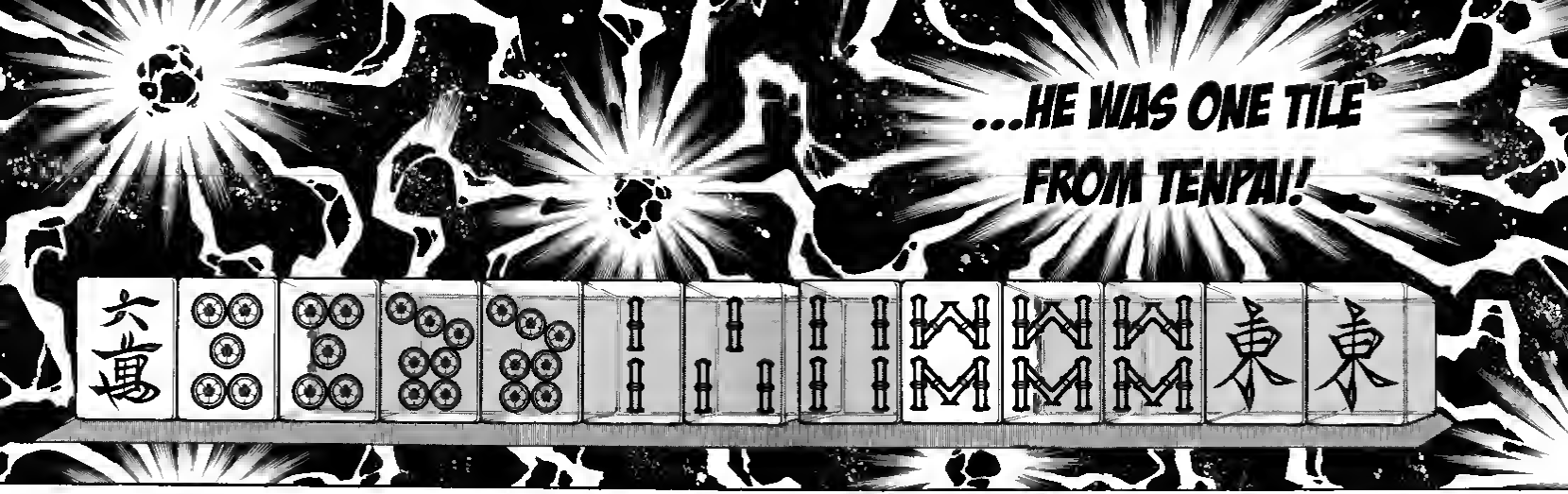
Was miles away!
That kind of hand...
The best shape would be for it to get to Pinfu... But even then...

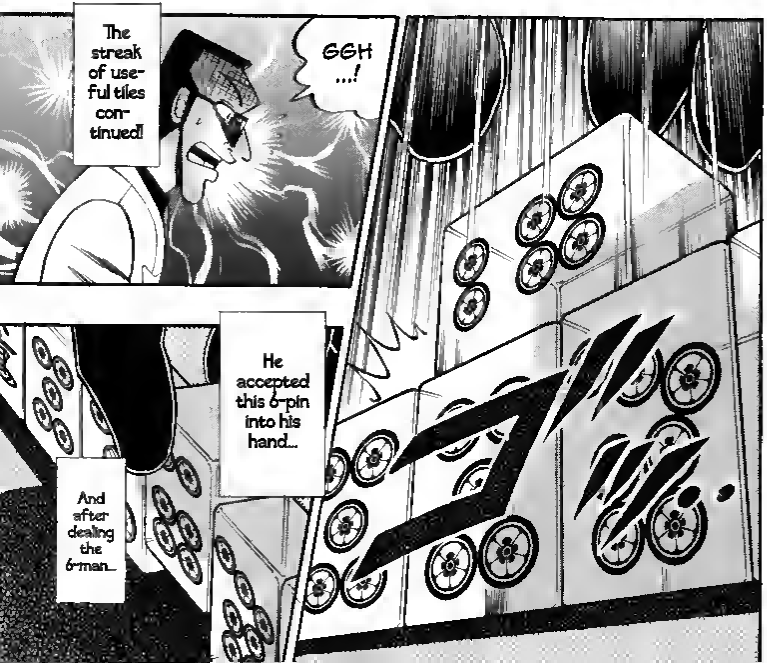
On the other hand...
From Washizu's perspective...


...Had seemed somewhat mediocre to begin with...
The starting hand he had at the start...


On the 2nd Turn...
But everything afterwards was incredible...!
The 3rd Turn...

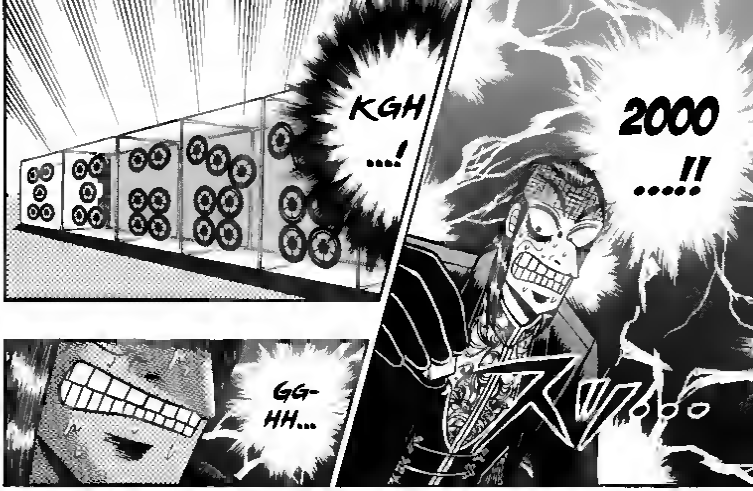
And now, the 4th Turn...!
He had drawn nothing but the best tiles...
GGH ...!
And before he knew it...
六萬


...HE WAS ONE TILE FROM TENPAI!
六萬
東
東

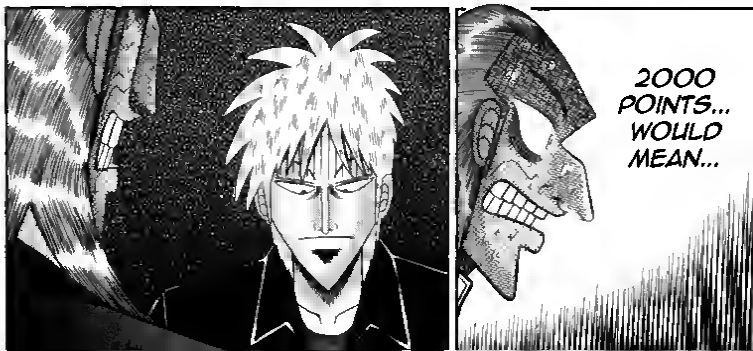

The streak of useful tiles continued!
GGH ...!
He accepted this 6-pin into his hand...
And after dealing the 6-man...

KGH ...!
Without a single wasted draw, he had made it to 1-Shan-Ten!
On the 5th Turn ...
Without a single wasted draw...
And then...

...HE WOULD BE IN TENPAI!
IT WOULD BE RIICHI, II PEI KOU, MENZEN TSUMO...
IF I CALL RIICHI NOW...
ぎわ…
GAH...!
SO A TSUMO WOULD BE WORTH 2000 POINTS FROM EVERYONE...!
3 HAN, 30 FU...
He had made it to Tenpai, this was fact!
The question then became...
And while this was not the best possible shape...
He had a closed wait...
Or should he hold off for now...?
Should he call riichi...

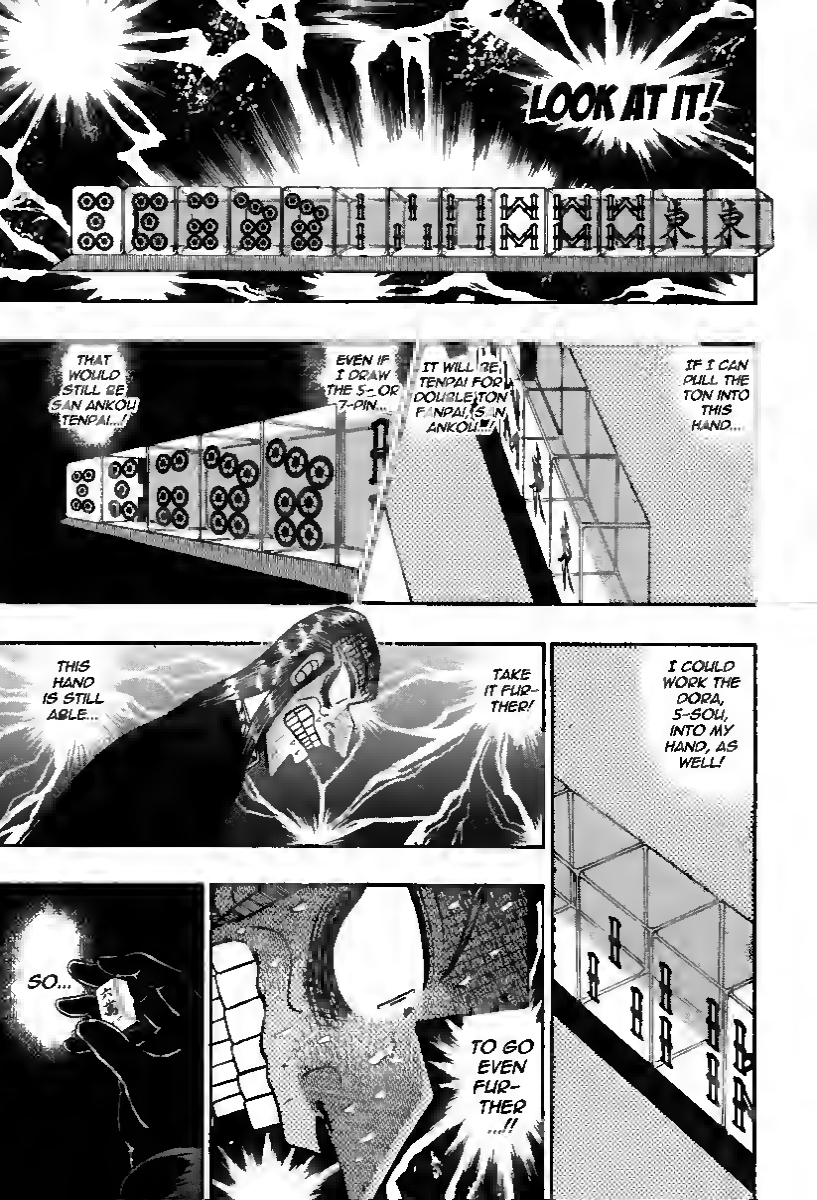

KGH ...!
2000 ...!!
GG-HH...
スッ...

A TSUMO WOULD ONLY BE 2000 FROM EVERY-ONE... IF I DON'T GET ANY URA-DORA...
DON'T BE IMPA-TIENT!
I WANT TO GO FOR IT, BUT I MUSTN'T!
STOP IT!
NO...
六萬


2000 POINTS... WOULD MEAN...

THAT MAN ....!!
...I WOULD NOT BE ABLE TO KILL...
THAT 200 CCS...
IT WOULD BE 2000 ...!
I WOULD NOT REACH IT!
...WOULD NOT REACH THE LETHAL LIMIT!

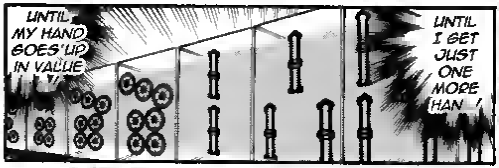
I WOULD BE LET-TING THAT DEMON LIVE!!
HE WOULD STILL KEEP HIS LIFE!
YES ...!
THAT'S RIGHT ...!
STAY CALM !
I CAN'T BE SO QUICK TO ACT
I MUST CALM DOWN !


LOOK AT IT!
THAT WOULD STILL BE SAN ANKOU TENPAI...!
EVEN IF I DRAW THE 5- OR 7-PIN...
IT WILL BE TENPAI FOR A DOUBLE TON TENPAI IS IN ANKOU...!
IF I CAN PULL THE TON INTO THIS HAND...
THIS HAND IS STILL ABLE...
TAKE IT FUR-THER!
I COULD WORK THE DORA, 5-SOU, INTO MY HAND, AS WELL!
SO...
TO GO EVEN FUR-THER ...!!

ヒデ
健太

I'LL PUT IT ON HOLD, JUST FOR NOW.

DON'T CHICKEN OUT...!!


UNTIL MY HAND GOES UP IN VALUE.
UNTIL I GET JUST ONE MORE HAN.

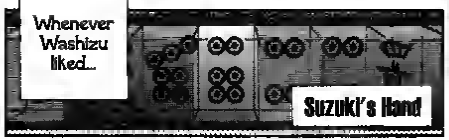
I'LL CONTINUE TO WAIT...!

IT'S FINE.!
……
ﾅﾌﾌ…

STILL HASN'T COME TO-GETHER!
THE BRAT'S HAND...
Akagi's Hand
I STILL HAVE TIME ...!
THERE'S NO NEED TO RUSH IT...!
YES ...!
IT'S POS-SIBLE FOR THIS HAND TO CHANGE ..NO LET ME KILL HIM...!
IT'S POS-SIBLE ...!
At this time...

Was one of the tiles that his underling, Suzuki, had!
.....

The 6-pin ...
The fact of the matter was, Washizu's winning tile...


Whenever Washizu liked...
Suzuki's Hand

At this time ...
But...
Was-hizu...

...He could have his hand dealt into ...!

...Did not so much as glance at Suzuki!

From the beginning...
GGH ...!
This was beyond expectations!

He was ignoring Suzuki!
He had not thought of having his hand dealt into...
...He had not even considered him!

Because of a Tsumo ...!!
For a Tsumo ...!

That he could kill Akagi if he made a Tsumo!!
Because it was possible ...
At that moment ...
KGH ...!
Washizu could think of nothing else!

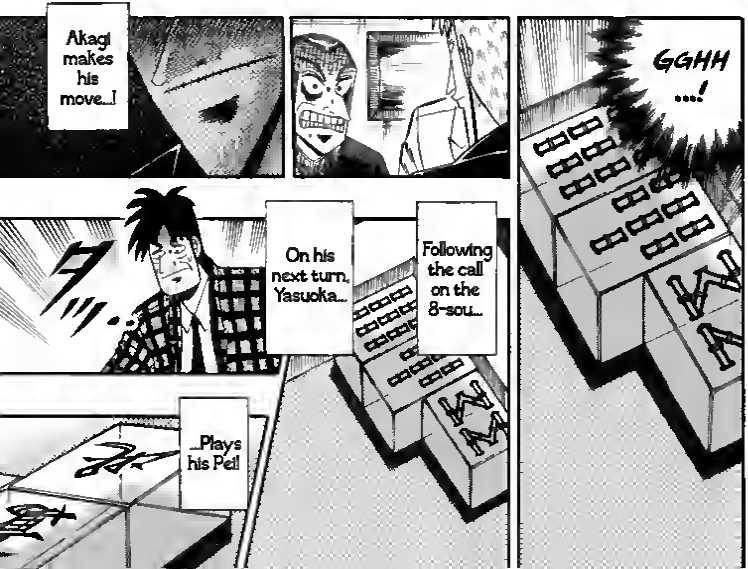
TCH ...!
There was nothing else to be done!
GRRA HH...!
GRR RGHH ...!
This development outside of his expectations...
Could it be...
This feeling of abandonment...
...To lose his concentration...?
...Had caused Suzuki...
He played the 8-sou ...!

He had made a mistake he normally would not have made...!
He had relaxed ...!
He opened up a chance ...!
Truly a sign of relaxation in his game...!
I WON'T OVERLOOK THAT!

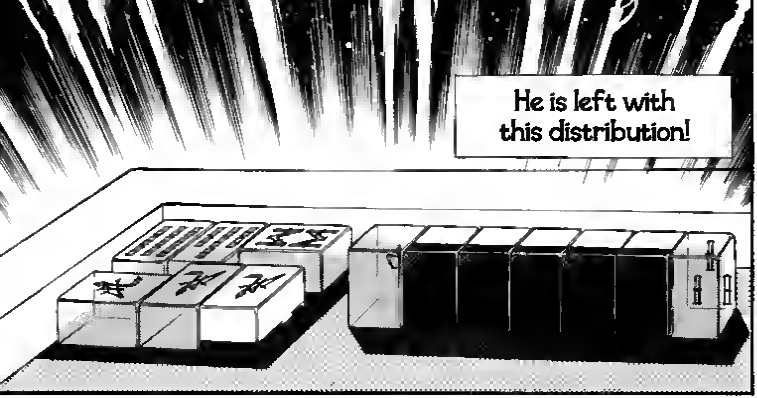
CHI!
AKAGI
GGH ...!
I'LL TWIST IT TO MY ADVANTAGE!

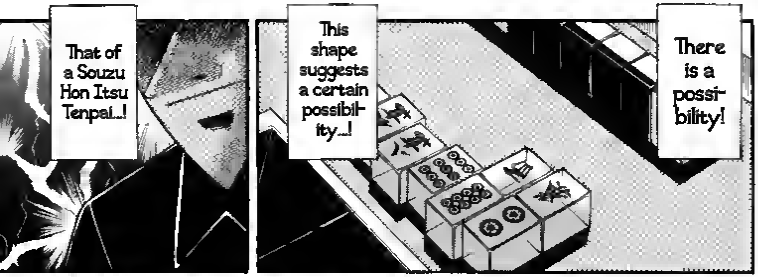
AKAGI... MAKES HIS MOVE....!!

CHAPTER 146 - BACKFIRE
第146話 裏目

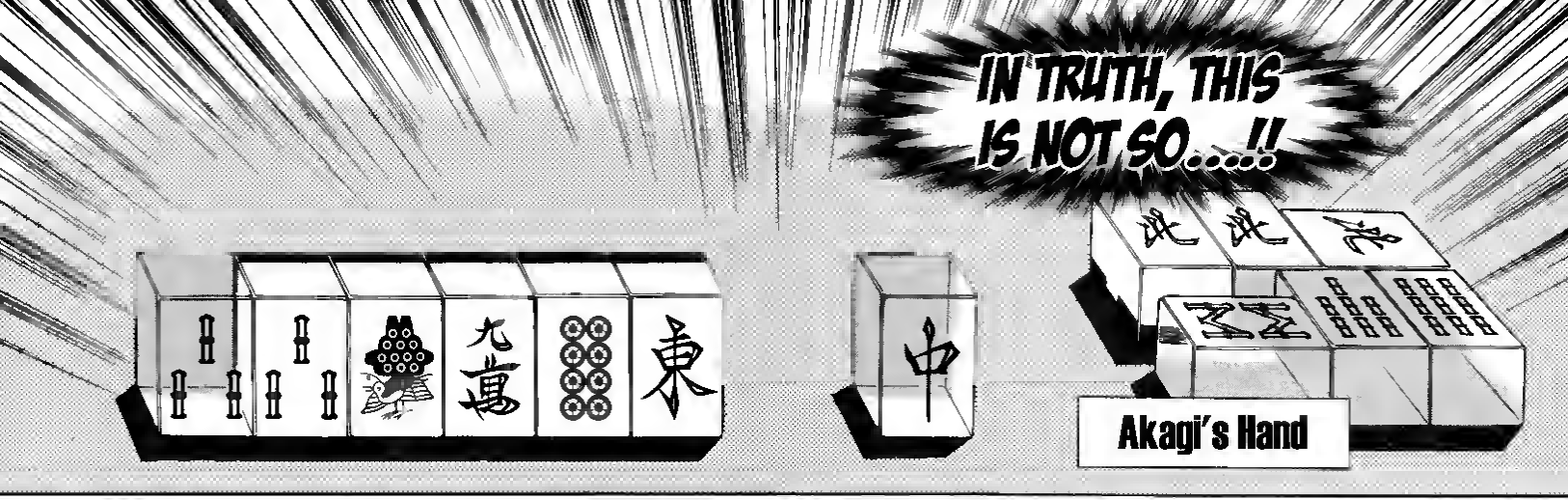


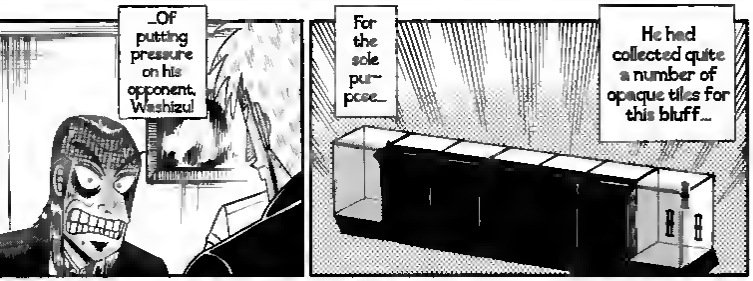
PON!
He calls this pei...
...And deals his Xia!
Lightning fast...!
.....
Everything changes in the blink of an eye...!

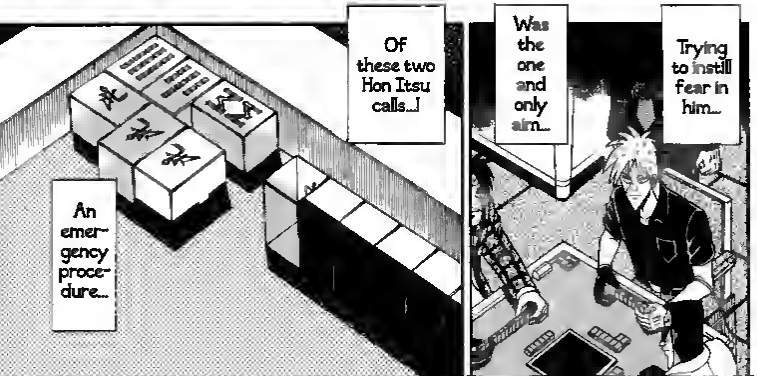

He is left with this distribution!

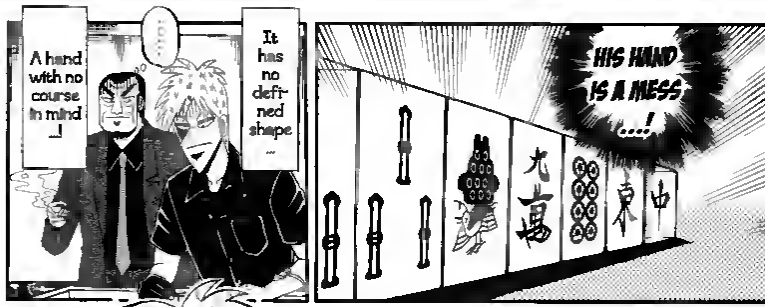

That of a Souzu Hon Itsu Tenpai...!
This shape suggests a certain possibility...!
There is a possibility!

It would suggest at least one away from Tenpai...!
Even at the worst...
KRR RRG GGG HHH ...!
.....
But...


IN TRUTH, THIS IS NOT SO....!!
Akagi's Hand


...Of putting pressure on his opponent, Washizu!
For the sole purpose...
He had collected quite a number of opaque tiles for this bluff...


An emergency procedure...
Of these two Hon Itsu calls...!
Was the one and only aim...
Trying to instill fear in him...


A hand with no course in mind...!
It has no defined shape...
HIS HAND IS A MESS...!

Entirely bluff...!
A mismatch of various odds and ends...!
Like drifting logs collecting on the beach...

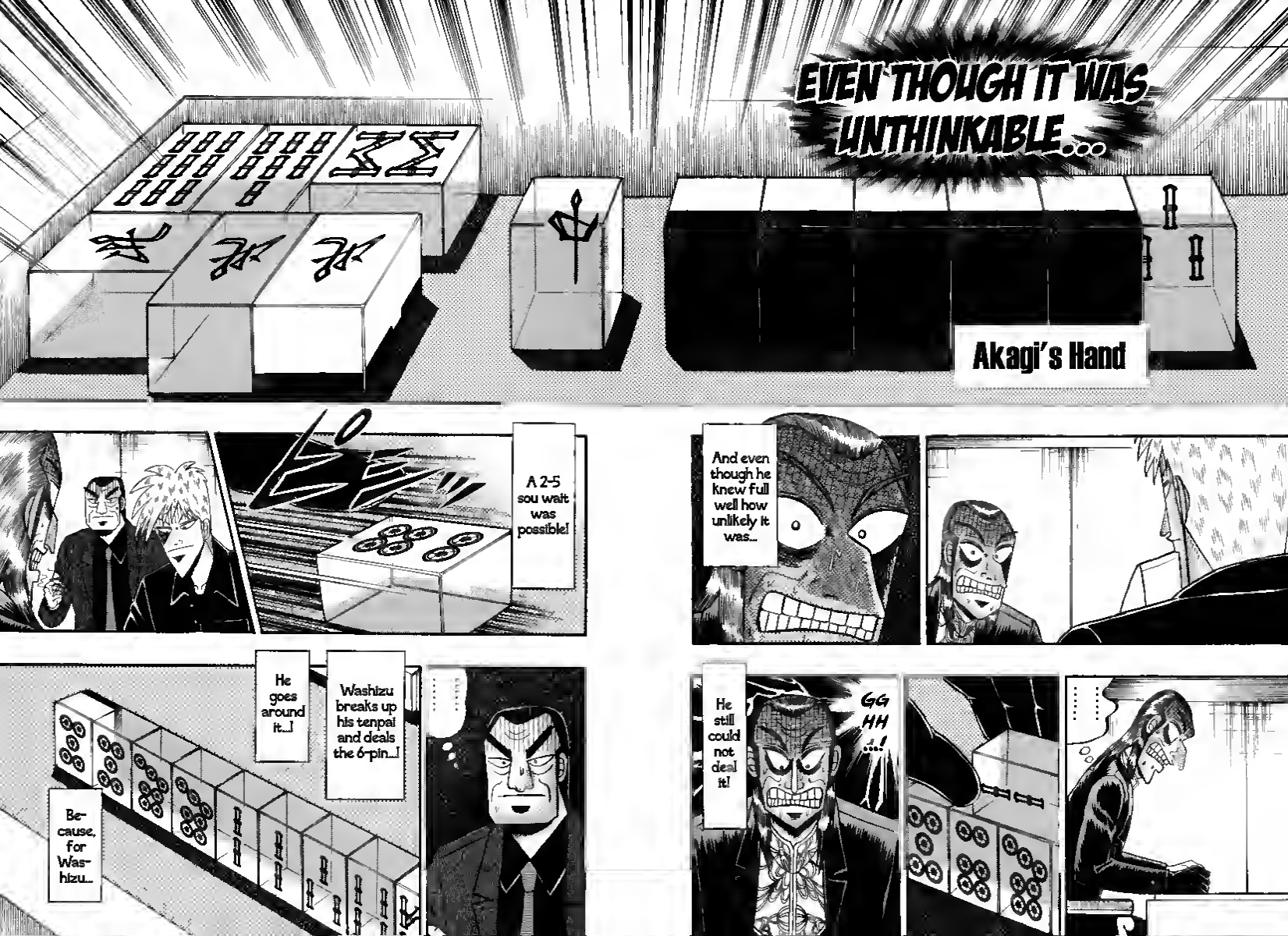
A last-minute backup plan...!

Ordinarily...
It would not work...
This bluff would fall flat!
For this battle was against the game's creator...
Who had played Washizu Mahjong numerous times...!

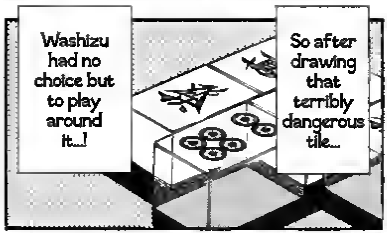
Because normally, this simply would not happen!
Having sequences with only opaque tiles would be nigh impossible!
While piecing one's hand together...
AKAGI'S EMERGENCY BLUFF!
MORE THAN LIKELY, HE WOULD SEE THROUGH THIS!
Only one of them is opaque.
Of the 4 tiles in each different kind...
Would be difficult to imagine...!
And still be able to make tenpai...
So to have a row of opaque tiles worked into one's hand...
.....

Of another suit... Or an honor tile...
At least one tile that wasn't useful would be mixed in...!
There would be a mix...!
Thinking that was only a matter of course...!
It was natural!

And although it WAS natural ...
URG-HHHH-GHH...!
GGH ...!
チラ...


EVEN THOUGH IT WAS UNTHINKABLE...
Akagi's Hand
A 2-5 sou wait was possible!
And even though he knew full well how unlikely it was...
He goes around it...!
Washizu breaks up his tenpai and deals the 6-pin...!
Because, for Washizu...
He still could not deal it!
GG HH ...!

Every-thing Akagi had done to now...!
The memories were still fresh in his mind...!


Washizu had no choice but to play around it...!
So after drawing that terribly dangerous tile...

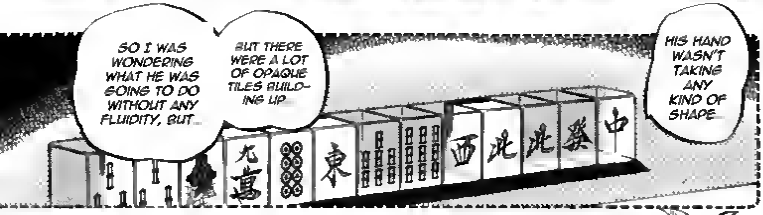
All the horrors he had wit-nessed...!

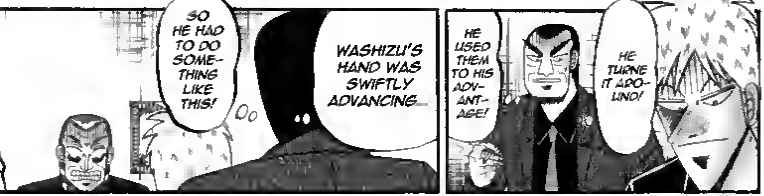
For, in the end...

Having a horrid starting hand...
He did not have any other choice but to do this!
Against Akagi...
And draws like the heavens were mocking him...
So the only action to take...
Was difficult to imagine for Washizu, who had not realized he was being favored!
That kind of situation...
This illusion of Akagi's ...
And within the dark reaches of Washizu's mind...
this Illusion!
Was to go around ...
...Had swelled in impor-tance!

HE HAD NO CHOICE BUT TO ASSUME THE WORST!
……
ピピピ

...Had used for this strategy!
This was exactly what Akagi...
I SEE...


SO I WAS WONDERING WHAT HE WAS GOING TO DO WITHOUT ANY FLUIDITY, BUT...
BUT THERE WERE A LOT OF OPAQUE TILES BUILDING UP...
HIS HAND WASN'T TAKING ANY KIND OF SHAPE...


SO HE HAD TO DO SOMETHING LIKE THIS!
WASHIZU'S HAND WAS SWIFTLY ADVANCING...
HE USED THEM TO HIS ADVANTAGE!
HE TURNED IT AROUND!

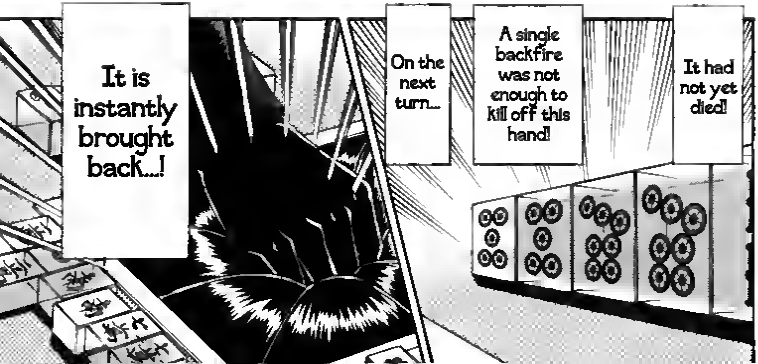
BUT MORE IMPORTANTLY...
BUT TO TAKE THIS TREMENDOUSLY DANGEROUS TIGHTROPE TO SAFETY!
HE HAD NO OTHER CHOICE
TO DO THIS BLUFF!
HE USED THE ENEMY'S MISTAKEN PERCEPTION OF THE MATCH

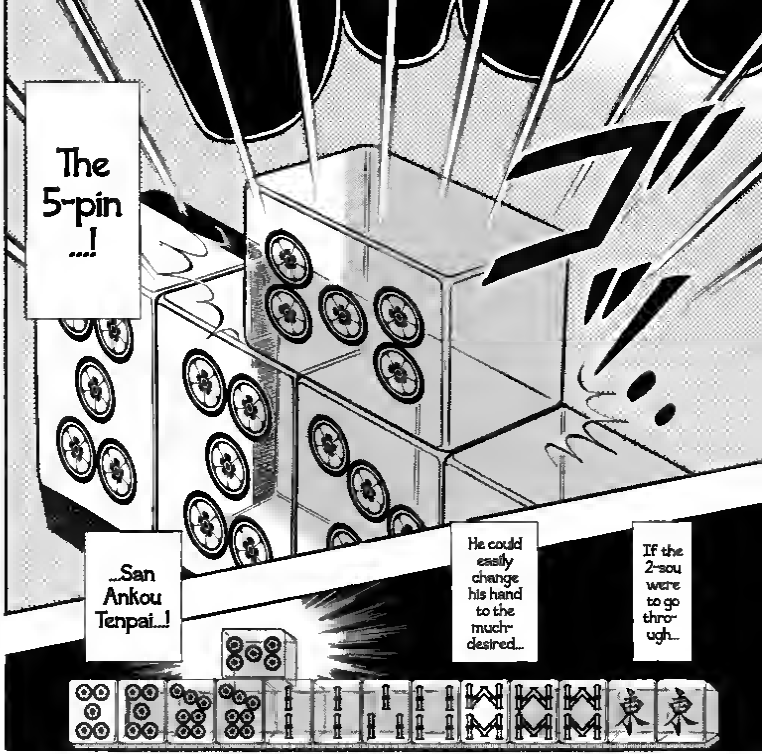
IT'S BAD...! AKAGI IS IN BAD SHAPE, RIGHT NOW!
The next turn
Yes...
Akagi had used that bluff...
To get Washizu to stray off-course...
And directly after...
Ku...

The 6-pin ...!
He drew the tile that could have completed his hand...!
Of all the things ...
He had it...!
GGH ....!!

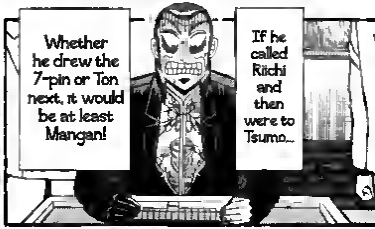
GR
RRR
GGG
HHH
...!!
GRGH
...!!
HO!!
THAT 6-PIN JUST NOW...
WAS HIS WINNING TILE...!
THAT WAS CLOSE...
HIS DRAWS BACK-FIRED ON HIM...
SOME-HOW OR AN-OTHER...
How-ever...

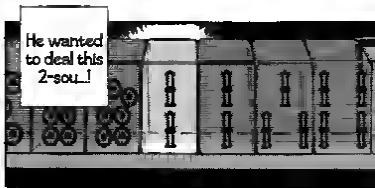
HE WAS ON FIRE!
WASHIZU HAD NOW SEIZED THE FLOW!

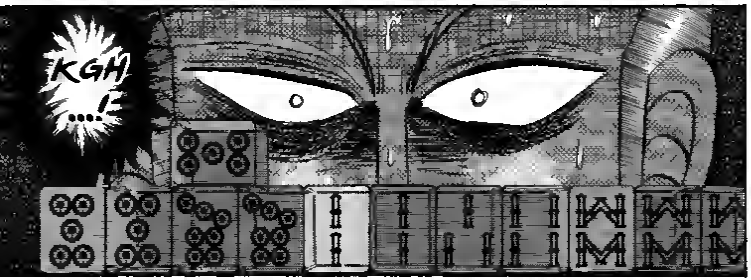

It had not yet died!
A single backfire was not enough to kill off this hand!
On the next turn...
It is instantly brought back...!


The 5-pin ...!
...San Ankou Tenpai...!
He could easily change his hand to the much-desired...
If the 2-sou were to go through...

KK
RR
RG
GH
HH
HH
HH
...!

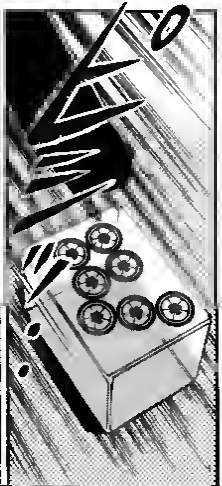

Whether he drew the 7-pin or Ton next, it would be at least Mangan!
If he called Riichi and then were to Tsumo...

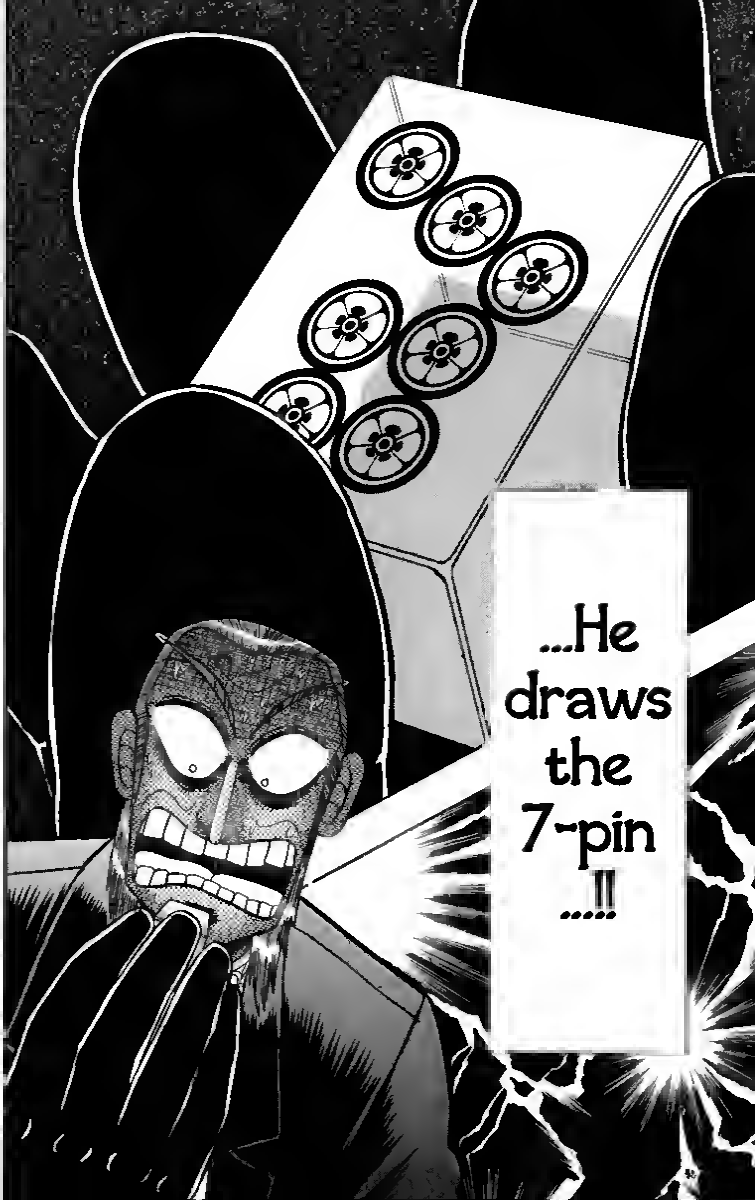

He wanted to deal this 2-sou...!


KGH
....!

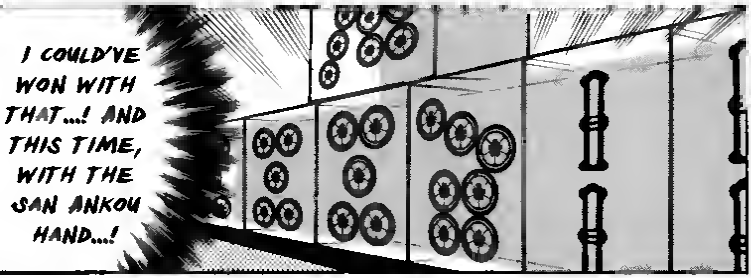
ざわ..
But it is no use...!

The risk of the Ton and 7-pin wait was too high!
He dealt the 7-pin!
The 2-sou won't pass against Akagi!
It will not pass...!
And on the next turn...

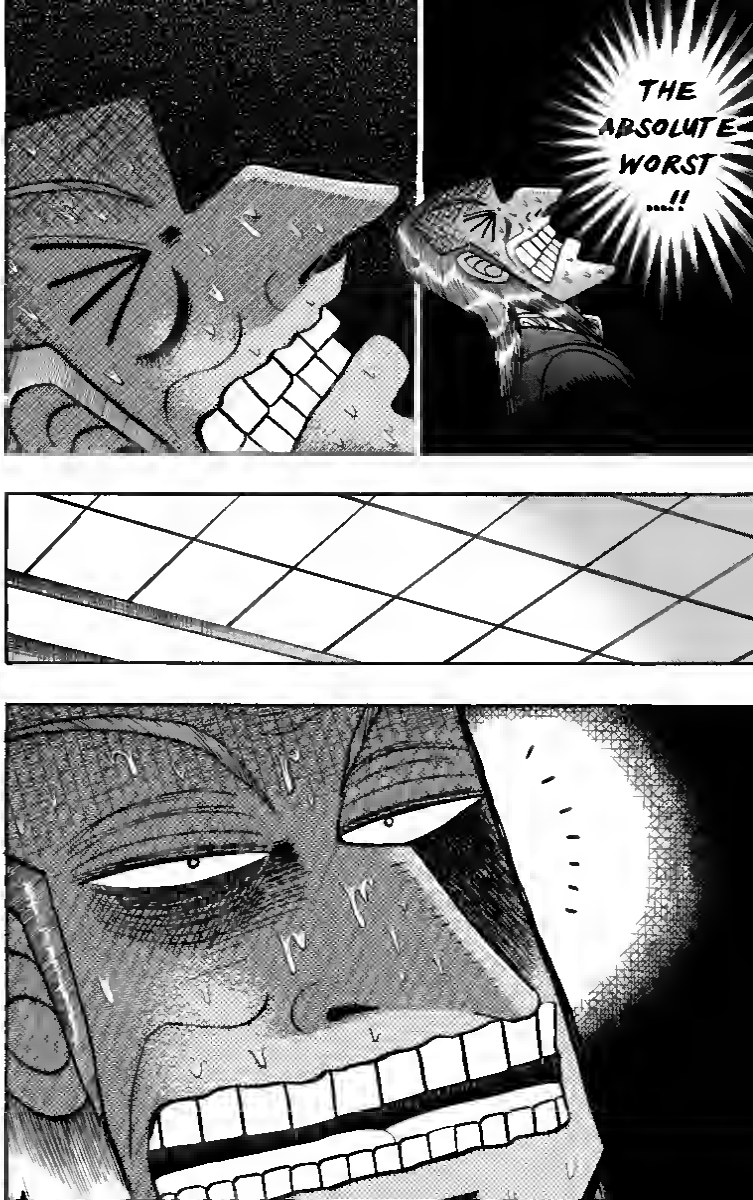


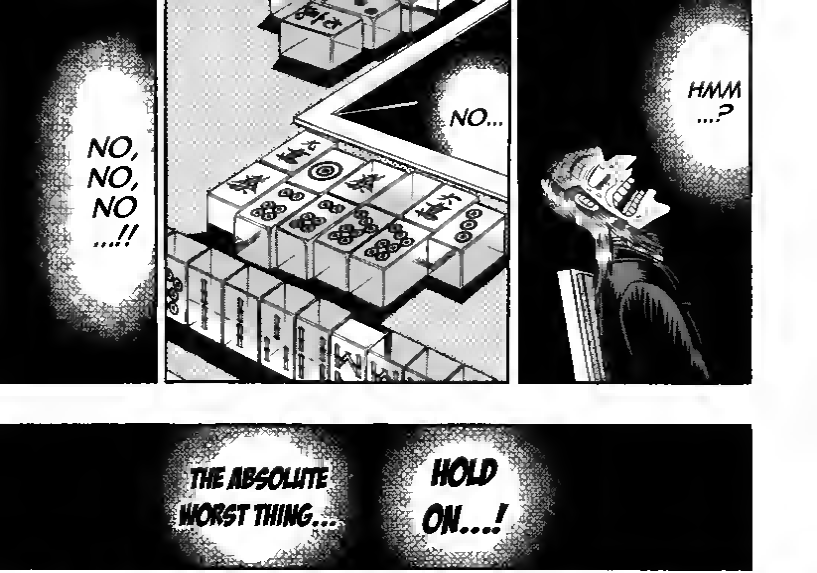

...He draws the 7-pin ...!!

WHAT THE HELL IS THIS?!
GHAH....!! GRAUGH....!! RAUGH....!!!
GH AH ....!!

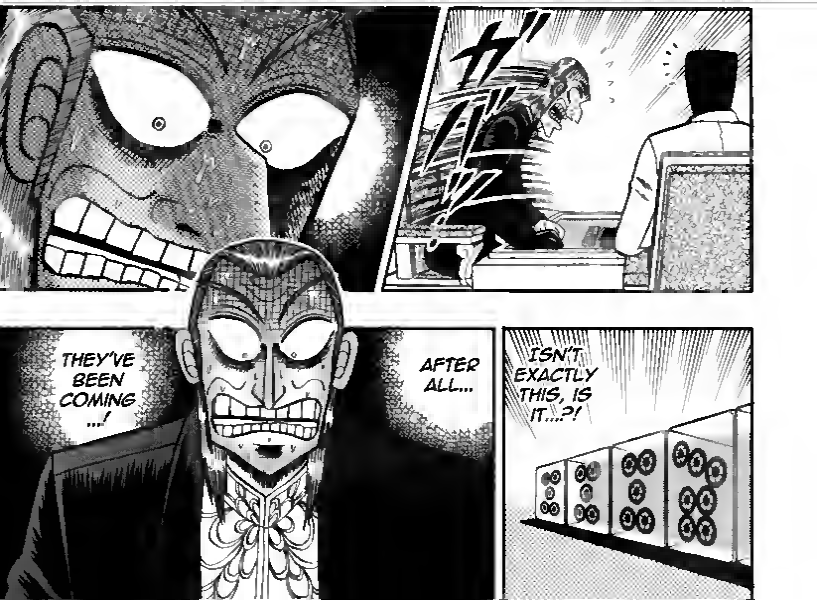

I COULD'VE WON WITH THAT...! AND THIS TIME, WITH THE SAN ANKOU HAND...!

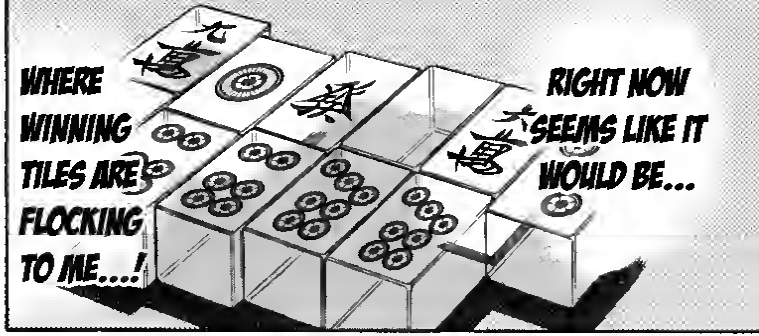
NOT JUST ONCE, BUT TWICE ....!!
I LET IT ESCAPE ...!

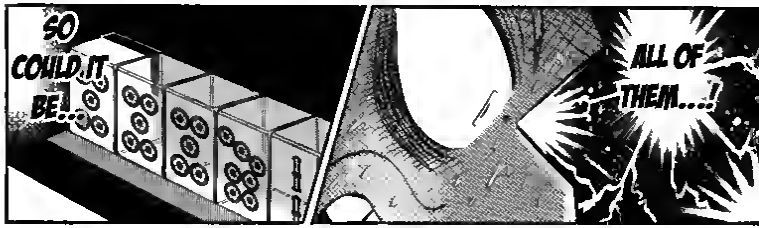

THE ABSOLUTE-WORST ...!!

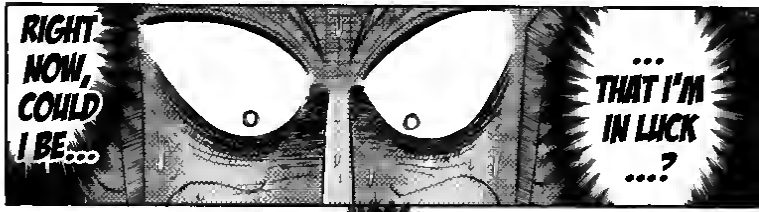

NO, NO, NO ...!!
NO...
HMM ...?

THE ABSOLUTE WORST THING...
HOLD ON...!

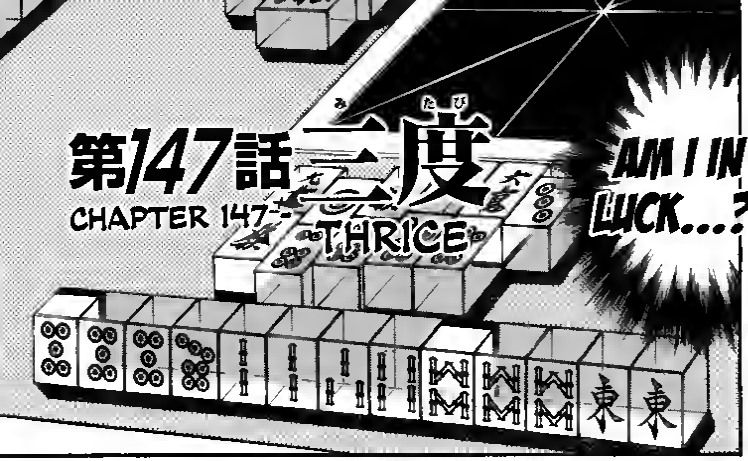

THEY'VE BEEN COMING ...!
AFTER ALL...
ISN'T EXACTLY THIS, IS IT...?!


WHERE WINNING TILES ARE FLOCKING TO ME...!
RIGHT NOW SEEMS LIKE IT WOULD BE...

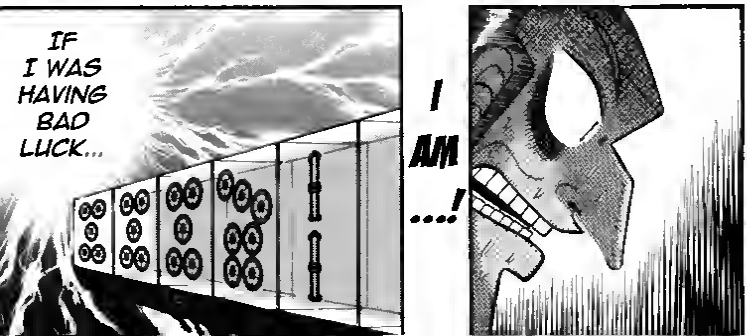

SO COULD IT BE...
ALL OF THEM...!


RIGHT NOW, COULD I BE...
...THAT I'M IN LUCK ...?

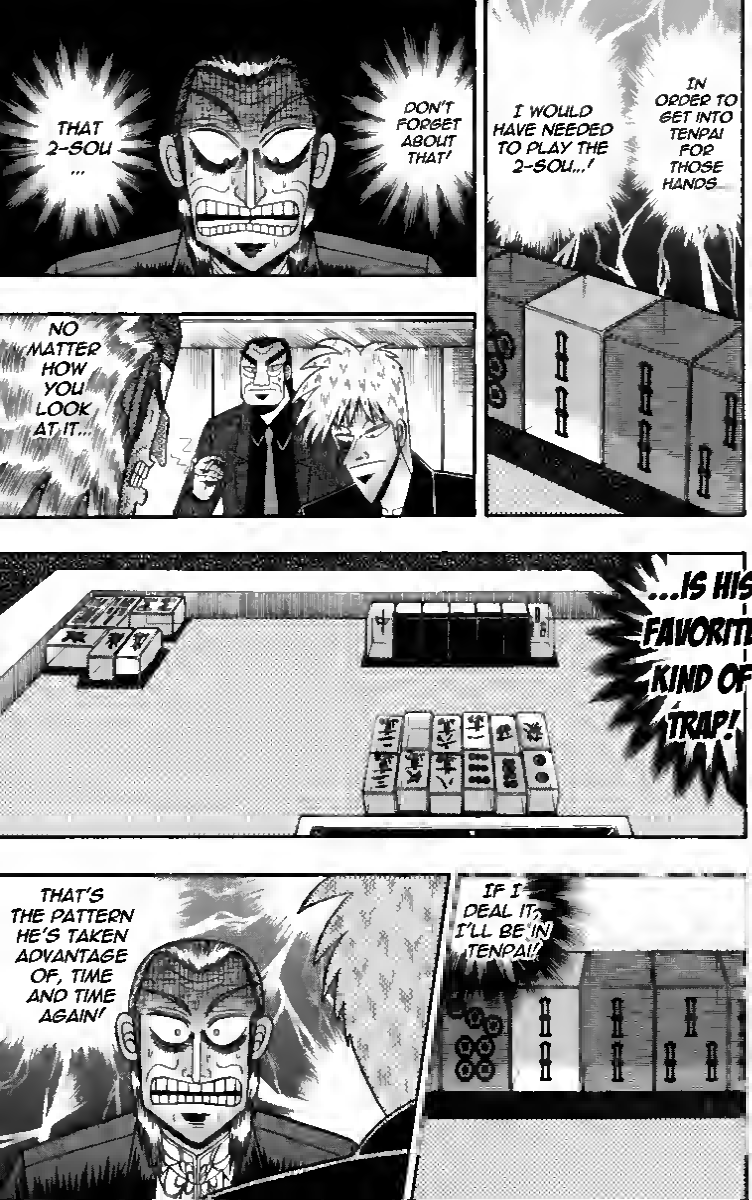
...IN LUCK ...?

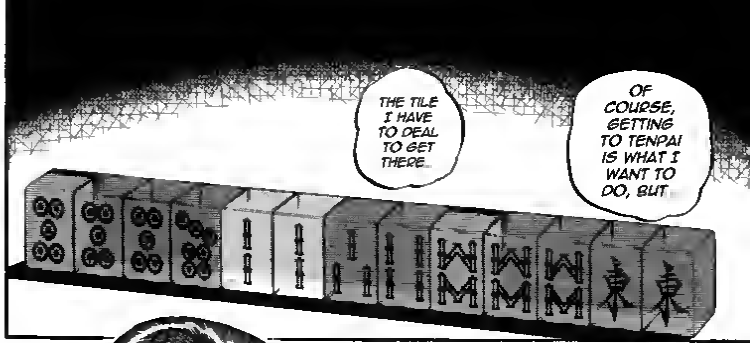

第147話 三度
CHAPTER 147 - THRICE
AM I IN LUCK...?!

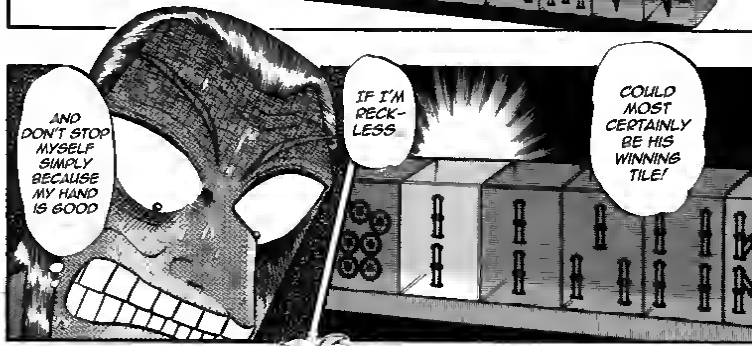
ざわ…


IF I WAS HAVING BAD LUCK...
I AM ...!

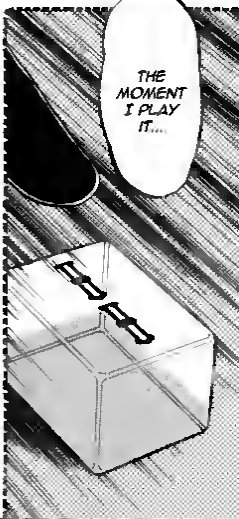
MY WINNING TILES CAME TWICE IN A ROW...!
WOULD THEY REALLY BE COMING SO EASILY ...?
AND THEN THE 7-PIN
THE 6-PIN
NO!!
NO, NO...!
NO ...
THINKING ABOUT IT, THE PROBLEM CAME IN BEFORE THAT!
TH...T'S WRONG! WRONG!

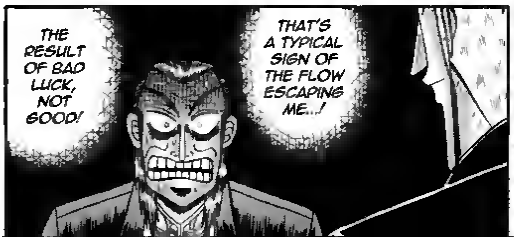

THAT 2-SOU ...
DON'T FORGET ABOUT THAT!
I WOULD HAVE NEEDED TO PLAY THE 2-SOU...!
IN ORDER TO GET INTO TENPAI FOR THOSE HANDS
NO MATTER HOW YOU LOOK AT IT...
...IS HIS FAVORITE KIND OF TRAP!
THAT'S THE PATTERN HE'S TAKEN ADVANTAGE OF, TIME AND TIME AGAIN!
IF I DEAL IT, I'LL BE IN TENPAI!


OF COURSE, GETTING TO TENPAI IS WHAT I WANT TO DO, BUT...
THE TILE I HAVE TO DEAL TO GET THERE...

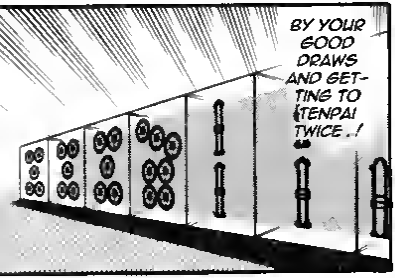

COULD MOST CERTAINLY BE HIS WINNING TILE!
IF I'M RECK-LESS...
AND DON'T STOP MYSELF SIMPLY BECAUSE MY HAND IS GOOD

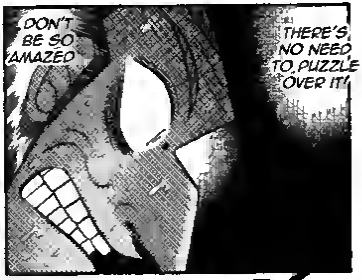
I COULD DEAL IN...!


THE MOMENT I PLAY IT...

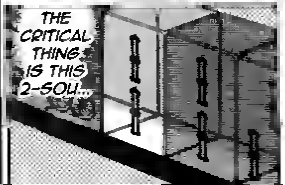

THAT'S A TYPICAL SIGN OF THE FLOW ESCAPING ME...!
THE RESULT OF BAD LUCK, NOT GOOD!

AND THAT IS EXACTLY WHAT'S HAPPENING NOW!


BY YOUR GOOD DRAWS AND GETTING TO TENPAI TWICE..!

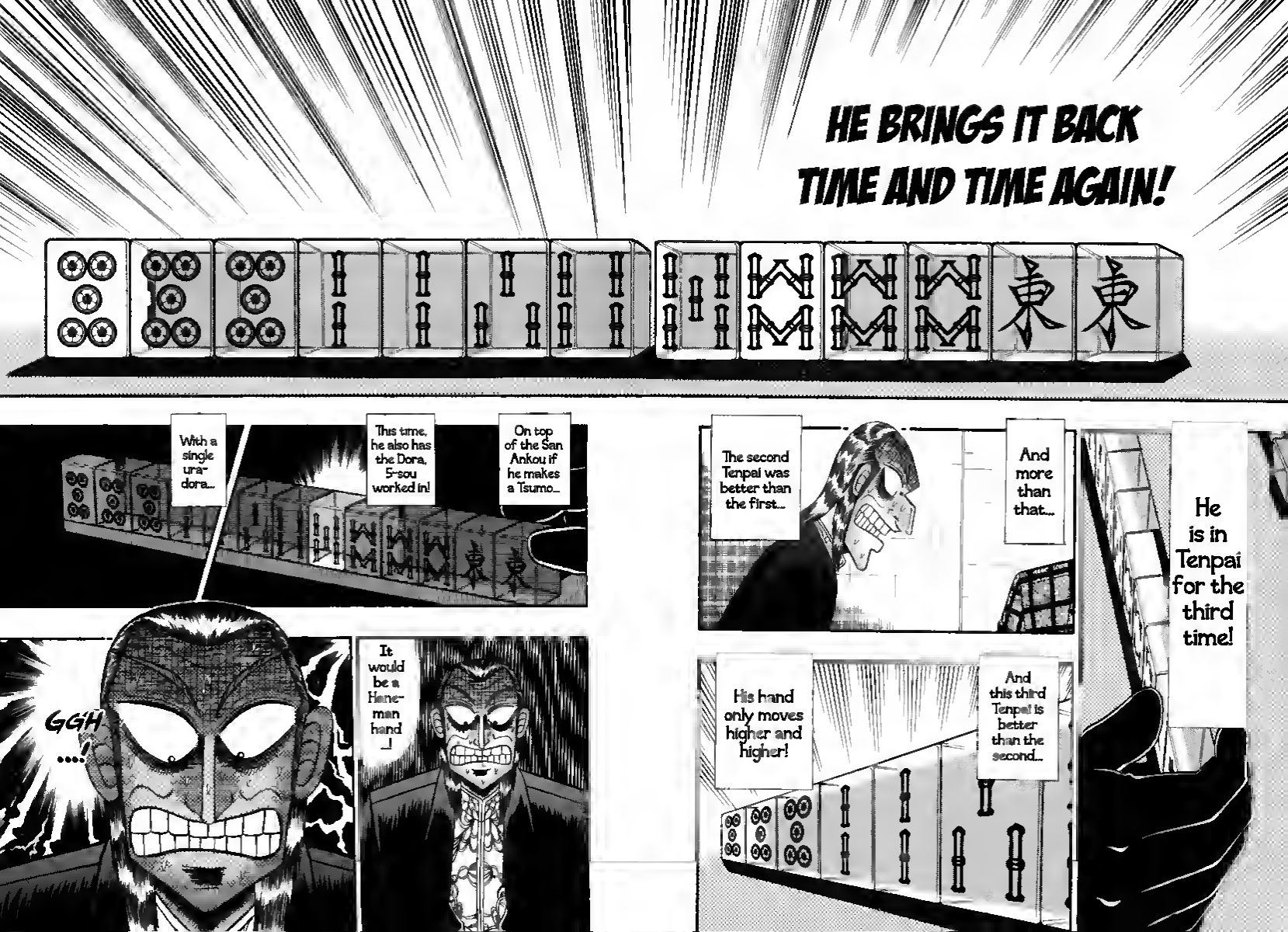

DON'T BE SO AMAZED
THERE'S NO NEED TO PUZZLE OVER IT!

NO MATTER HOW MANY WINNING TILES COME YOUR WAY
IF THE 2-SOU WON'T PASS

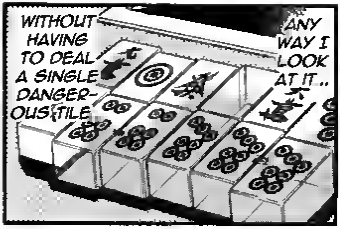

THE CRITICAL THING IS THIS 2-SOU!..

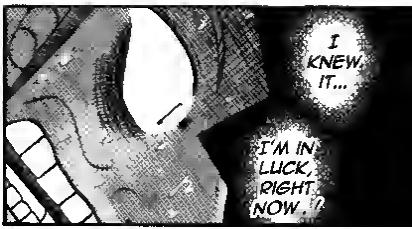
WHA
...!
THE DORA, 5-SOU.. THEN...!
THE 5-SOU ...!
HAHH!

ピ〜〜..
WHAT THE HECK ...!
Was-hizu..
...IS SHOCKED AND DUMB-FOUNDED AT THIS DRAW OF 5-SOU...!
Even after taking it apart twice already...
Des-troying what he had ...
It is once again brought back to life!
His hand is instantly repaired ...!

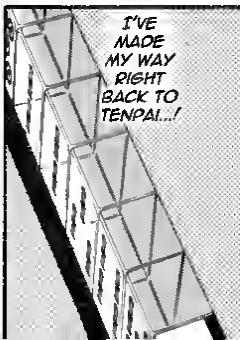

HE BRINGS IT BACK TIME AND TIME AGAIN!
With a single ura-dora...
This time, he also has the Dora, 5-sou worked in!
On top of the San Ankou if he makes a Tsumo...
GGH ...!
It would be a Hane-man hand...!
The second Tenpai was better than the first...
And more than that...
He is in Tenpai for the third time!
His hand only moves higher and higher!
And this third Tenpai is better than the second...

I'M IN LUCK ...!

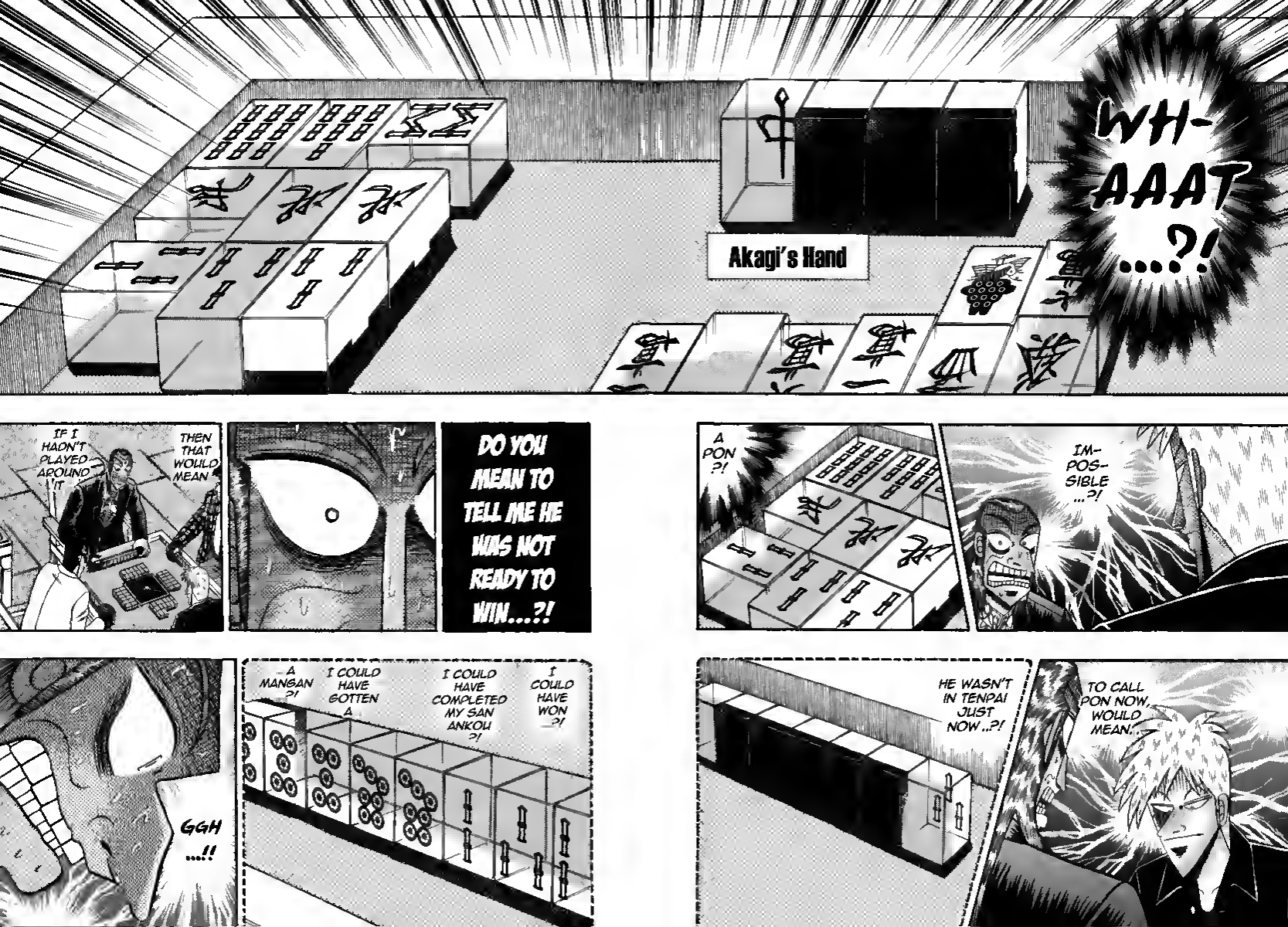

WITHOUT HAVING TO DEAL A SINGLE DANGER-OUS TILE...
ANY WAY I LOOK AT IT..


I KNEW IT...
I'M IN LUCK, RIGHT NOW..!?

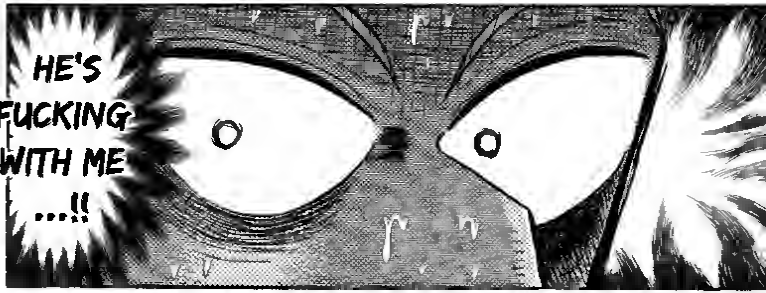
THIS CAN ONLY MEAN ..!

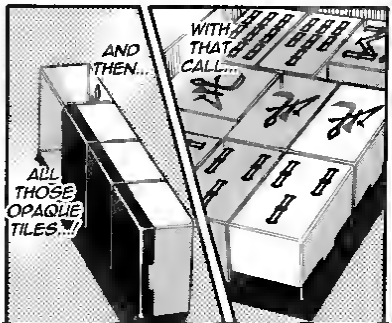

I'VE MADE MY WAY RIGHT BACK TO TENPAI...!

HUH...?!
PON!
WHA...


WH-
AAAT
...?!
Akagi's Hand
IF I HADN'T PLAYED AROUND IT
THEN THAT WOULD MEAN
DO YOU MEAN TO TELL ME HE WAS NOT READY TO WIN...?!
A PON ?!
IM-POS-SIBLE ...?!
GGH ...!!
A MANGAN ?!
I COULD HAVE GOTTEN A
I COULD HAVE COMPLETED MY SAN ANKOU ?!
I COULD HAVE WON ?!
HE WASN'T IN TENPAI JUST NOW..?!
TO CALL PON NOW, WOULD MEAN..

THAT BRAT ...!


HE'S FUCKING WITH ME ...!!

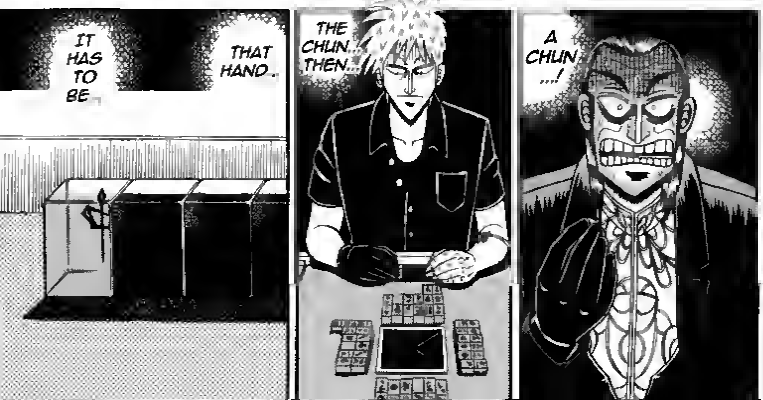

ALL THOSE OPAQUE TILES...!
AND THEN...
WITH THAT CALL...

ALL HE DID WAS TRICK ME!

HE MANIPULATED ME COMPLETELY!! AGAIN!!
HE REALLY DID IT!!
IF THAT'S HOW IT IS, THEN
FUCK!!
DRAW IT!! THE TON... OR THE 2-SOU...!!
NOW THAT IT'S COME TO THIS, IT NEEDS TO BE...!!

IT NEEDS TO BE ....!!

GGH
...!
WHAT ...?!


IT HAS TO BE
THAT HAND.
THE CHUN... THEN...
A CHUN ...!

...WAITING ON THIS....!
THERE'S NO TENPAIS LEFT BUT A SINGLE WAIT ON THIS CHUN!
THIS COULD BE HIS WAIT.....!!
IT'S NOT IMPOSSIBLE.....!!

IT JUST HAD TO BE THIS ....!
G G H ...!

I JUST HAD TO DRAW THIS CHUN...!!
AFTER ALL THAT MANIPU-LATING

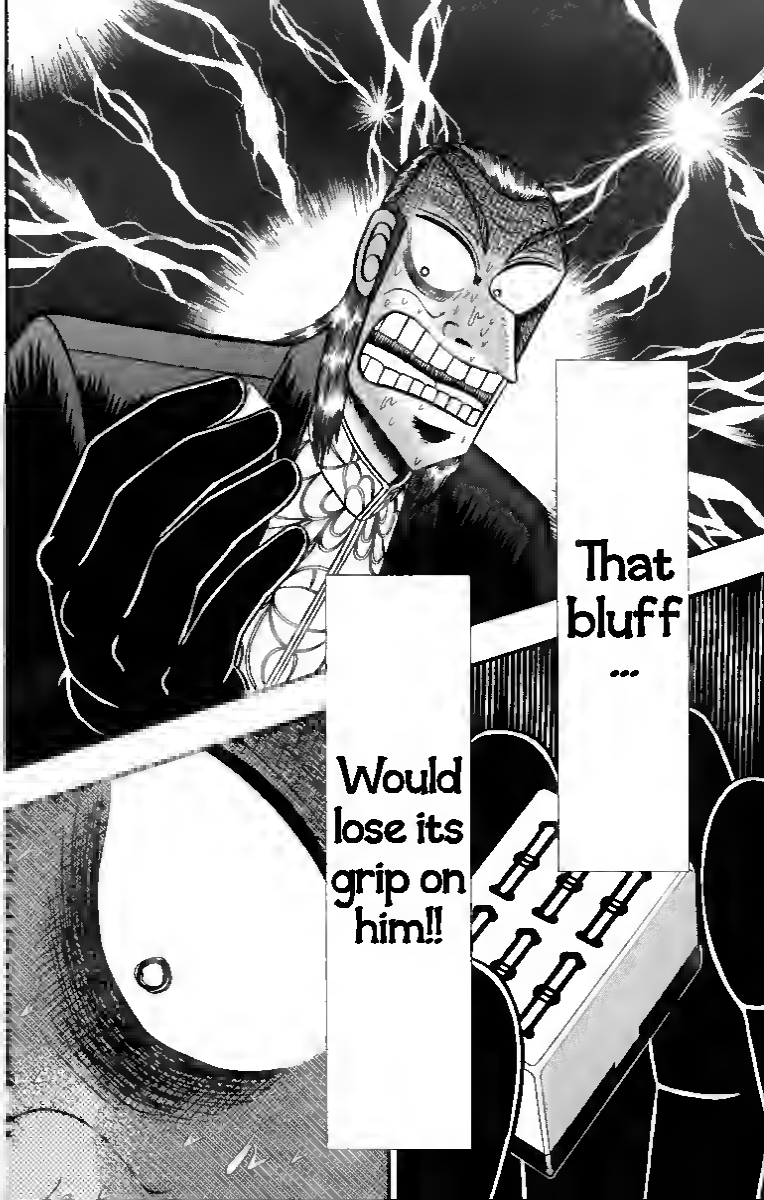
KG HH ...!!
.....

...
Oo
Washizu...
While having agonizing thoughts, finally plays the 5-pin...!
This could not be helped.
But...
If Akagi were in Tenpai, it could only be a single wait on this Chun!
Because it was the Opaque Chun he drew...
For a third time!
He breaks up his Tenpai!

To think that Akagi could be in Noten now...
After calling so many times to this point...
Would be too great an assumption to make!
Akagi's Tenpai ...
Was not only limited down to a Chun Single Wait...
From there ...
He must be in Tenpai!
Because Washizu could see where the Opaque 3-sou and 8-sou were...
But as well, it could only be one of these two hands!
Of course, having a triplet of three opaque tiles is impossible...
No other Souzu Sequences were possible!

These were the only remaining possibilities!
So as a result...
This chun was clearly too dan-gerous!
He could not play it!
So in that way...
So it could not be helped!
There was no way to justify playing it!
At least for the time being ...
It had won out!

AKAGI'S ...
...DESPERATE BLUFF HAD COME OUT VICTORIOUS!
But...
All that would end on the 18th Turn...!


That bluff ...
Would lose its grip on him!!

THE OPAQUE 6-SOU ....!
AHHH ....?!
AH ....?
4-5-6 SOU AND 5-6-7 SOU ARE BOTH IMPOS-SIBLE....!
THEN THAT MEANS ...
WHAAAAT ....?!
WHA ....?!
IM-POS-SIBLE ....?

IF THEY'RE IMPOSSIBLE, THEN...!
IT'S NOTEN ...!
NOTEN ...?!